The National
# Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

February-March, 1983

Inside This Issue: A Tale of Two Star Farmers

Ag Careers: Many Hats To Choose From

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The National
# Future Farmer
Published by the Future Farmers of America

February-March, 1983
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## A Word With The Editor

Planning a career in agriculture isn't easy but it is very important if you want to be happy and productive with what you are doing for a living. Your current interest in FFA and vo-ag indicates you have already narrowed the field to agriculture—or a field closely related to agriculture. But there are many opportunities to choose from inside the big world of agriculture and agribusiness. You need to be able to recognize these different career paths.

The article "Many Hats to Choose From" will help you begin to understand the many choices available from which you can choose. In addition, this issue gives you a close-up look at ag sales in the first of a series called "Careers In Agriculture." Future articles in this series will describe different agricultural occupations you may wish to explore.

On Page 32 and 33, you will find stories about two star state farmers from leading agricultural states, Illinois and Iowa. The article, "A Tale of Two Stars," gives a profile of their activities and compares the farm management techniques that propelled them to the top.

For a lesson in courage, be sure to read the article on Page 50 about Leroy Billman, Ohio FFA President. It describes the accident, the miraculous recovery, and the determination and courage that pulled him through.

Other highlights of the issue include our annual outlook article and some "Future Farmer Strategy" for dealing with situations you may confront this year. Include our regular features and we hope you will find this issue interesting and informative as you move ahead to a satisfying career in agriculture.

*Wilson Carnes*

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**Our Cover** *Cover Photo by Michael Wilson*

Dennis Price, of Coggon, Iowa, was named 1982 Iowa Star Farmer for his farm management skills in hog and crop production. He's part of our story "A Tale of Two Star Farmers," which takes a look at two of FFA's most progressive young farmers.

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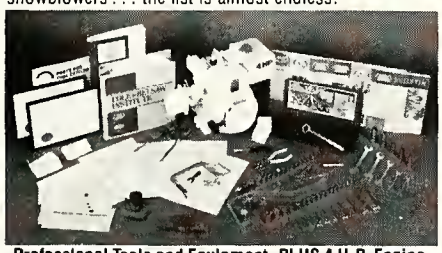

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# The FFA News in Brief

**"TEAM EFFORT"** was the main thrust for new national officers, as they met for the first time at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, last December. The 1982-83 officer team spent two weeks in orientation meetings, preparing speaking and travel schedules and meeting with several key FFA staff members. The new team has established several goals for the upcoming year including a major emphasis on SOE programs for vo-ag students, membership development and several general goals for improving the total vo-ag and FFA program.

**National FFA officers met in December at the National FFA Center.**

**1982 CONVENTION POSTSCRIPT:** FFA members received a special welcome on opening day of the National FFA Convention this past November, as President Ronald Reagan made a special videotape address over closed circuit television in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium. In his remarks, President Reagan praised the American farmer and FFA members for their hard work and talent. "I salute you for all that you're doing to ensure that our country will remain a land of plenty," said the President. "The FFA is a model youth organization. It provides young men and women with an opportunity to develop those skills and talents which will improve their lives tomorrow, and at the same time, serve their community and country today."

**THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE** Program is now accepting applications from FFA members interested in attending the 1983 summer conferences in Washington, D.C. Eight week-long seminars in leadership training are scheduled for this year's program, beginning June 13 and extending through August 12, 1983. The program costs $275 per FFA member. Former National Officers David Pearce and Jeff Kirby will head up the group of talented counselors. For more details, look for the special WCP brochure which will be mailed to your chapter's doorstep in March.

**ABOUT 20 FFA MEMBERS** returned to the United States in December after participating in the FFA's Work Experience Abroad program. The FFA'ers lived and worked on farms and agribusinesses in Europe for three and six months before returning to their American homes. In January, three FFA members began the WEA experience with 3-, 6- and 12-month stints planned for Europe and Australia. Applications are coming in early for the June, 1983, program—if you're interested, fill out your application and send it to the National FFA Center by March 1, 1983.

**A NEW MOVIE** showing the need for community development from an agricultural standpoint is now available from Venard Films, Ltd. The film, titled "Consider the Possibilities," was sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) and produced by the Future Farmers of America. It's illustrated with several success stories from locations throughout the country, and can serve as a public relations tool for FFA chapters. You can get more information by writing to: Venard Films, Ltd., Box 1332, Peoria, Illinois, 61654.

**THE NATIONAL SOE WORKSHOP** held at Washington, D.C., last July received so many favorable comments from state vo-ag leaders that plans are underway for another workshop to be held in 1984. Some of the objectives of the 1984 workshop, according to Bob Seefeldt, FFA program specialist for Awards, are to determine how states utilized 1982 information and materials, determine how SOE experiences for all students have been improved and to review techniques for using contests and awards to enhance emerging SOE programs. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for late July, 1984, but no dates have been finalized.

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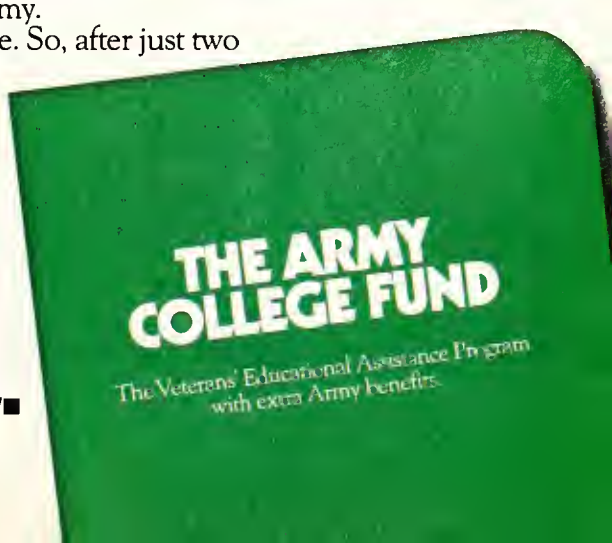


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# The Mailbag

**Omaha, Nebraska**

I think you did a very good job with the article entitled "Fiscal Fitness" in the December-January issue. You covered all of the basic points so well that anybody who really takes the subject to heart is bound to benefit. Sometimes we at the Land Bank worry that we're "preaching" too much about record keeping . . . but then we are reminded that records which are used wisely are the best tools in assuring a farmer's financial success. Thanks for helping us do the job.

*Arthur Buffington*
*President*
*Federal Land Bank of Omaha*

**Enola, Pennsylvania**

In reading *The National FUTURE FARMER,* October-November, 1982, I was very much interested in your article "Hog Future." My parents and I are in the process of buying a 105-acre farm in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, and had considered raising hogs as our mainstay. That system of housing seems to be a good one and coincides with our own ideas of housing.

*Martin Deiter*

**Riverside, Connecticut**

The October-November issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* just came across my desk and I want to thank you very much for using our release "Why Hunting Accidents Happen" on page 27.

We feel the message in this release is an important one, and it is only through support such as you have given us that we are able to reach a broad segment of the general public.

*Doug Painter*
*National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.*

**East Haven, Connecticut**

When I was reading the December-January issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER,* I came across the article on epilepsy (Facts for Action, page 38).

I have a friend who has epilepsy and I was glad to find out why she sometimes has convulsions and that there are ways of treating seizures. This information has set many things straight. Thank you.!

*Tamara Wojcik*

**Lost Creek, West Virginia**

I have received numerous calls and letters concerning the article in *The National FUTURE FARMER (December-January, 1982-83).* The article was excellent as is all of your writings. I appreciate the story and your interest.

I will soon be leaving active membership in the FFA, but my heart will always remain with this fine organization.

*Duane Adams*

**Huffman, Texas**

I would like to say that as vice president of our chapter I thoroughly enjoy reading the FFA magazine. Not only is the magazine filled with interesting stories related to agriculture, but interesting ideas given by other chapters. Thank you for keeping us up to date on agricultural news.

*Douglas Love*

**Salem, Oregon**

I have been an FFA member for four years and now hold the office of president of the North Salem Chapter. After high school I plan to go to the University of Oregon and study to become an agriculture teacher/FFA advisor. The FFA has had a great part in my life.

*David Zalonis*

**The following unsolicited testimony came to Wisconsin State Advisor Floyd Doering. He shares it with you.—Ed.**

**Algoma, Wisconsin**

Thanks to the Algoma FFA Alumni, I have just returned from my first national convention and one of the most uplifting conferences I have ever attended any time or any place. The invitation extended by them for me to attend the 55th National FFA Convention in Kansas City was most appreciated. The fact that they also provided my transportation was "frosting on the cake."

The theme of this year's convention "VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE—Educating Through Experience" was most appropriate for all of us, but especially for me.

Prior to the convention, I had what I considered to be an adequate understanding of FFA. I now feel that I have gained much knowledge of the Future Farmers of America, but more importantly to me at least, I have gained a tremendous respect for the program and its participants. It is a total program covering every aspect of the life of a future farmer. In fact, it is life itself!

You can be assured that those from the Algoma Chapter whom I accompanied to Kansas City gained much through this most worthwhile experience.

*Harold D. Gehrke*
*District Administrator*
*School District of Algoma*

**Morristown, Tennessee**

I went to Morristown West High School and was in the FFA all four years. I really enjoyed your magazine. Since I'm out of school I would like to renew my subscription for another year.

*Eddie Roach*

**Portland, Tennessee**

The FFA magazine is about the best magazine published in America. I have every copy sent to me over the three years.

*Tony Livingston*


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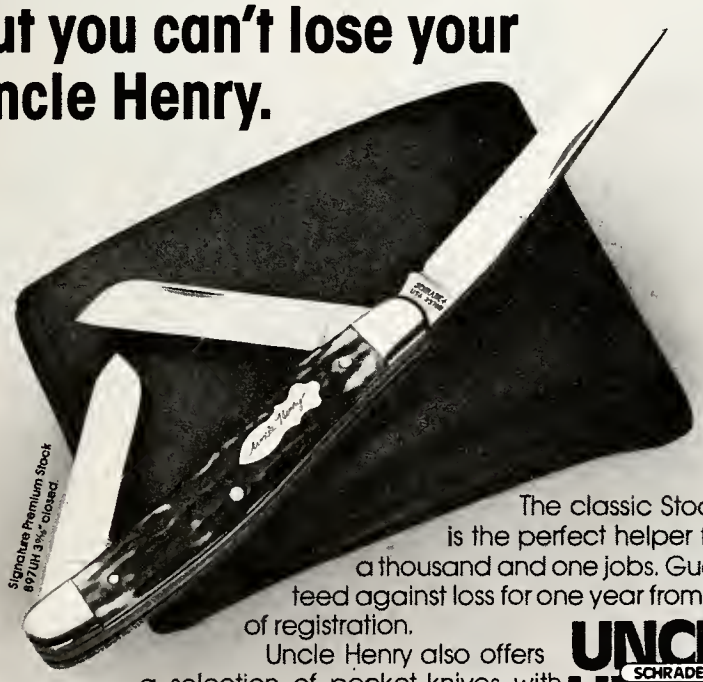


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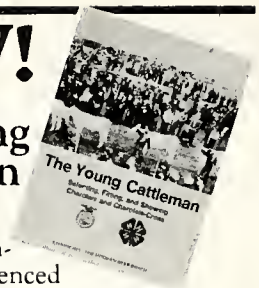


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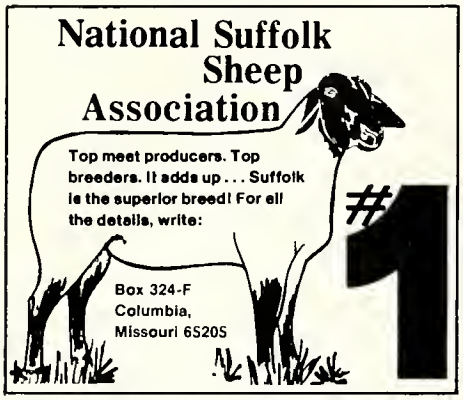
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Trends in Agriculture

# Looking Ahead

**THE TEN TOUGHEST FARM** problems of today, according to a group of editors, agronomists and bankers at a seminar, resulted in this listing: 1) Low commodity prices, 2) Inadequate yield levels, 3) Financial mismanagement, 4) Inadequate soil and water conservation, 5) Lack of business skills, 6) Excessive government regulation, 7) Lack of modern marketing methods, 8) Traditional practice of exporting raw products instead of upgrading to higher profit finished goods, 9) Anti-farm attitude of urban community, national news media, TV and government, 10) Environmentalist opposition.

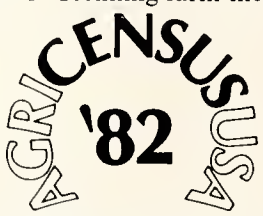
**FEBRUARY** means fieldwork is just around the corner. Here are some cost-cutting tips you may want to incorporate into your cropping program this year, from a recent issue of *Doane's Agricultural Report:*

*Keep tillage to a minimum, combining implements to reduce field trips.
*Band apply herbicides, using wick applicators and recirculating sprayers where possible to cut herbicide waste.
*Attack weeds as early as possible.
*Soil test for fertility. It may give you results which allow a reduction in fertilizer costs.

**ALTHOUGH RELATIONS** between the United States and USSR are still tense, Russia continues to buy grain from this country. "This year the Soviet Union will attempt to import 46 million tons of grain, more than any country in history," says Lester R. Brown, president of Worldwatch Institute. "As a result, one-fourth of all the grain for Soviet human and livestock consumption will come from abroad. Each day two 20,000-ton freighters loaded with grain now leave the United States for the Soviet Union. This massive new food connection may represent the most important change in relations between the two countries since the Cold War began." Although the USSR remains the world's leading wheat producer, the over-all Soviet total is still only about half what U.S. total grain production is. U.S. farmers produce almost twice as much grain on 38 percent fewer acres than the Russians.

**WHICH STATE LEADS IN** cash receipts from farm marketings? California remains on top of the list for 1981, with $13.9 billion in cash receipts. Iowa was second with $10.7 billion. Both states together accounted for nearly 10 percent of all cash receipts from farm marketings nationally, according to the report in *Farm Paper Letter.* Illinois ranked third, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri and North Carolina rounded out the top ten list. The ten leading states accounted for 52 percent of the national total of $143.4 billion received by farmers for all commodities.

**IT MAKES CENSUS:** The 1982 Census of Agriculture, which began last month, is slowly sifting through the doorways of the Bureau of the Census in Washington, D.C. The Census, sent to farmers and ranchers this year in 3,100 counties, asks producers to provide information about the number of farms, commodity production, land use, and income levels in agriculture. Because of declining farm income




and continued high interest rates, the information is important to the nation's policymakers, farm supply and marketing firms, and farmers themselves. The information is held absolutely confidential. If you or a member of your family has received a census form, urge them to complete it and mail it by February 15, 1983.

**A POLL OF FARMERS** and ranchers has found nearly two-thirds viewing their personal futures negatively—either "bad," "the worst ever" or impossible to survive unless action is undertaken immediately. The survey, taken by the Agriculture Council of America, used a 2,300-person sample for analysis. A clear government commitment to expanded exports and actions to reduce interest rates were the solutions most strongly endorsed by the respondents.

**THAT USDA 900**-line, which provided farmers and agribusiness people with different daily reports for a 50-cent fee has been disconnected due to a "changing regulatory environment," according to an AT&T official. USDA says because AT&T did not charge the government for the service it presented a problem under the pending reorganization of the massive company, according to a report in *The Washington Post.*

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# The FFA Year In Review

**The editors of *The National FUTURE FARMER* have selected the following events as highlights of the FFA year**

## 1982 Convention: A Time For Changes

A new stage and a new theme, "Vocational Agriculture—Educating Through Experience," were just two highlights of the 1982 National FFA Convention held each year in Kansas City, Missouri. After the smoke had cleared, convention delegates had voted to raise national FFA dues 50 cents, from $2.00 to $2.50 per member. The convention newspaper, *The FFA Times* continued its daily coverage of convention activities, and this year included a special "Convention In Review" edition, replacing the Proceedings booklet which usually is sent to FFA chapters months after the convention is over. For the first time in history, new national officer elections witnessed the FFA's first female member as president of the organization.

## National SOE Workshop The First Of Its Kind

More than 200 ag-education leaders from 45 states turned up in Washington, D.C., for the first-of-its-kind National Supervised Occupational Experience Workshop. Under the theme, "Bridging The Gap," vo-ag leaders discussed and identified concerns and needs in strengthening SOE programs on both state and local levels. Workshop participants took a field trip to visit agribusinesses and vo-ag departments, and joined the State Presidents' Conference attendees at the White House for President Reagan's address. The workshop was sponsored by DEKALB AgResearch, and a new film "SOE—Bridging The Gap," was sponsored by Ciba-Geigy.

## FFA Alumni Has Another Record-breaker

The National FFA Alumni Association, which consistently breaks its own membership records each year, followed suit again in 1982. A total of 23,589 new Alumni members joined the organization last year, breaking the 1981 record by almost 1,000. Even more impressive was the surge in life memberships: 786 new life members, bringing the Alumni's total life membership count to 3,783. Not only is it the most number of new life members signed up in one year, it's also the largest percentage of growth in life memberships for any year.

## "America Needs Your Leadership"

President Ronald Reagan headed an elite group of top U.S. government officials who addressed FFA members in the Rose Garden of the White House in July. "America needs your kind of leadership," President Reagan said. "Through the vocational agriculture program . . . the FFA has prepared millions of young people for their careers." Earlier, Secretary of Education Terrel Bell and Secretary of Agriculture John Block spoke to the FFA group. The meeting was one highlight of a week-long seminar in leadership training for state officers at the annual State Presidents' Conference, sponsored by General Motors.

## "A Miniature Smithsonian for FFA"

Dedication ceremonies for the new FFA National Hall of Achievement maked the official opening for the quarter-million dollar exhibition, located in the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Only a dream in the eyes of FFA officials four years ago, the Hall now stands as a landmark to preserve agricultural and FFA heritage, to present FFA today, to honor special FFA supporters and to look into tomorrow's agriculture. Funding for the Hall came from FFA members, agribusiness people and other individuals through the National FFA Foundation. The Hall also houses the new FFA library and the National FFA Archives.

## FFA Magazine Celebrates 30-year Anniversary

The October-November, 1982, issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* marked the anniversary of 30 years of service for the magazine sent to FFA members all across the country. The publication, which began as an experiment in 1952, now touches the homes and lives of every FFA member six times a year, with a total readership of nearly two million FFA members, family members, FFA alumni and agribusiness leaders who support FFA. The magazine is considered an important link between FFA, agriculture and youth.

## FFA Foundation: Another Record Year

FFA members gave 1982 Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman Lu Achilles Wall a standing ovation after her announcement of the FFA Foundation's total support figures at the 1982 national convention. In all, the National FFA Foundation raised over $1.4 million for FFA members and FFA programs last year—the largest dollar figure ever raised. Amidst the doom and gloom of a continuing crisis in farm prices and farm economy, agribusiness firms and others continue with relentless support for the Future Farmers of America.

## Changes At The Top: FFA Officials Retire

1982 saw the retirement of two important officials in the national FFA organization, Edward J. Hawkins and Julian Campbell. After 19 years as Manager of the FFA Supply Service and 11 more years as Administrative Director for the national FFA organization, Mr. Hawkins ended his 30-year career of service to the FFA in February of 1982. His replacement, Wilson Carnes, served as Editor of *The National FUTURE FARMER* for 24 years, and now continues his role with the magazine as Editor-in-Chief. Mr. Campbell, who retired in December, served as Treasurer to the national FFA organization and National FFA Foundation for 22 years. He also served 24 years as Virginia State FFA Advisor, and has contributed 36 years of service to vocational agriculture. David Miller, former State FFA Advisor for Maryland, acts as the new national FFA Treasurer.

# A Work Horse Who Worked The Horses

## Tom Sturgeon
## Hennessey, Oklahoma

Long, tedious hours of work earned Tom the 1982 National FFA Horse Proficiency Award. The American Quarter Horse Association congratulates him.

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# FFA WEEK: *A Time To Celebrate*

*By Jeanne Olson*

THE week of February 19-26 has been designated FFA WEEK, and it's not too late to make plans for the big celebration. But if you haven't begun planning yet, better start now to take advantage of the many opportunities available for your chapter to publicize the Future Farmers of America organization.

Why should your chapter participate in FFA WEEK? The main reason for FFA WEEK is to improve relations with the public. And this year's theme, "Vocational Agriculture - Educating Through Experience," is a great way to begin. You can use this theme to tell people about your school's vo-ag program—both rural *and* city folks. The public should know how FFA members gain valuable work experience by learning to do.

Sure it's nice to let people know about the FFA success story—but there's an even more important reason behind good public relations for FFA. You need to create an awareness in your school and community concerning your chapter's programs and projects. This awareness can be valuable during program evaluations and budget cut considerations. If school board members, your parents and local agribusinessmen understand the importance vo-ag plays in the community, they'll be more apt to support the program if cutbacks are forthcoming.

For starters, use the 1983 FFA WEEK IDEA BOOKLET, mailed to every chapter. This is a perfect source for ideas, suggestions and explanations of activities for your chapter.

Use public relations tools to increase awareness through print and visual media. Proper planning is very important in drawing the attention of the media, so start planning today. Newspaper, radio and television channels are often quite willing to cover FFA activities during FFA WEEK, because of their obligation to cover community activities. But it's helpful if you make the first move by informing them of your plans.

Another good area to get attention from is at the top of your community's political structure. Request a proclamation from your mayor or governing official declaring the observance of FFA WEEK. This basis of support is a good beginning. The next step is to plan small events that maximize publicity coverage, thus increasing community awareness.

Your chapter should also promote awareness in school. For example, focus on a designated theme for each day of FFA WEEK. You could begin the week by attending church in Official FFA dress, and later, mark one day to attend school in official dress as well.

The FFA Supply Service provides many audio-visuals for rent or purchase to show organizations in your school and community. All of the promotional items for FFA WEEK are undated and usable all year. You'll find them listed in the Supply Service catalog.

Here are some activities that you and your chapter can use to promote FFA WEEK: hold an open house for supporters, parents and friends emphasizing your studies in vo-ag, stressing the theme "Educating Through Experience;" deliver FFA calendars and *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine to local businesses; conduct tours of local farms, agribusinesses or FFA members' supervised programs. Also, make sure you put the dates and activities up on your school's activity boards. Remember to thank everyone who helped promote FFA WEEK.

Allow your experiences to educate others, not only during FFA WEEK but year 'round. Have a good time—but most of all, get involved. If all FFA'ers get involved, you can bet FFA WEEK will be a success. •••

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# Third Congress Unites World's Young Farmers

**Above, FFA representatives don headphones to hear interpreters translate different languages into English.**

*By Becky Vining*

It's not often agricultural youth groups from all over the world meet together in one place—but that's just what happened in West Germany last October, as young farmer and future farmer groups from 66 different countries met for the Third World Congress of Young Farmers. The Future Farmers of America had their own top leaders in attendance—the 1982 regional Star Farmers, Star Agribusinessmen and national officer Melanie Burgess.

In all, 350 young farmers and agricultural administrators attended the Congress in West Berlin, to discuss how young farmers can promote solidarity at the world level. Much discussion centered on solving world hunger problems. The first World Congress was held in Kansas City, Missouri, in conjunction with the 1976 National FFA Convention, and again in 1979 in Paris, France.

Bringing people together from Australia, France, Thailand, Nigeria, Panama and 61 other countries can pose unique challenges—like the many different languages people speak. As a result, FFA representatives manned headphones at each major session, and interpreters translated each word simultaneously into seven different languages.

This year's congress participants were divided into three groups to discuss proposals about how young farmers can help promote world solidarity. Tom Lichty, Central Region Star Agribusinessman from Monroe Center, Illinois, joined the group that examined strategies to fight hunger in the world. They first discussed how a lack of education and knowledge, rather than a lack of food, is often the problem.

"Even though we can't cure world hunger from the week in Berlin, it gives us a chance to talk with those people from underdeveloped countries and find out their problems," Tom said. "It's also a chance to see what they expect from us, and it gives us a chance to form our own opinions about what we should do."

Television and film star Eddie Albert served as expert to the world hunger group. He believes that the problem of world hunger isn't production, but distribution.

"To help solve world hunger, FFA members should keep right on doing what they're doing—keeping food production up—and let those of us with more time to travel help," Mr. Albert said.

Mark Yeazel, Eastern Region Star Farmer from Eaton, Ohio, cited four proposals which the group suggested might help combat world hunger: organize farm cooperative training, develop non-government young farmer organizations, have apprenticeships at the local level and start a farm equipment bank so countries with unused machines can distribute them in developing countries.

One group discussed exchanges of information between young farmers. Tracy Vicary, Eastern Region Agribusinessman from Martin, Tennessee, learned "we can exchange all the people we want to, but if the trainee

*(Continued on page 18)*

**The FFA delegation saw first-hand how harvesting equipment was produced at Claas World Headquarters in Harsewinkel.** *Photos by Author*

# Ambition to Achieve

## Mark Beemer, Webster City, Iowa 1982 National Home and Farmstead Improvement Winner

Ambition is the main ingredient in Mark Beemer's life. With his ambition, he's accomplished goals and attained skills that will help him in the future. His activities in the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement Program have been a vital part of developing and meeting goals.

At his family farm, Mark helped finish their new home. He reconstructed their concrete patio, helped install plumbing and refinished furniture. He also landscaped their yard, laid sod, planted a grove of trees and developed flower beds, in addition to helping his family rework nearly every outbuilding on the farm.

Assuming full financial responsibility for the confinement building for his 40-sow hog operation, Mark constructed his own swine facility.

That's what FFA is all about: Achieving for the future.

This requires team effort. And The Upjohn Company is enthusiastic about being part of this team as sponsor of the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement Program.

The people at Upjohn think it's important to work together with concerned individuals, like Mark, and his fellow FFAers, to make the American farm a better place on which to live.

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# World Congress

*(Continued from page 16)*

can't communicate it's worthless. The trainee needs knowledge, especially language."

FFA Manager of International Programs Lennie Gamage served as chairman of the exchanges group.

National Vice President Melanie Burgess and Tom Day, who's now a Work Experience Abroad student, told about the FFA's program in Panama in the group concerned with carrying out micro-projects in third world countries. Elmer Zimmerman, Eastern Region Agribusinessman from Lowellville, Ohio, (later named Star Agribusinessman of America) said their group agreed micro-projects should be set up so that local people can continue working after the program begins. These micro-projects include building or improving dams, water inlets, rural electrification, silos and sheds, rural roads, schools of apprenticeship, primary schools and leadership programs.

Other Stars in attendance—Clay Christensen, Western Region Agribusinessman from Thomas, Oklahoma; Kevin Robinson, Central Region Farmer from Eskridge, Kansas (later named Star Farmer of America); and George Clemmer, Southern Region Farmer from Mosheim, Tennessee—agreed it was an educational experience to communicate with so many young farmers from around the world.

In addition to working in the groups and hearing speakers, the Stars saw a variety of songs and dances native to the countries represented, attended the Berlin ballet and toured West Berlin. They saw the wall that divides the city, and some passed through Checkpoint Charlie to visit East Berlin.

For five days before the Congress, the FFA delegation toured German agricultural operations, beginning with Claas world headquarters in Harsewinkel. Claas of America, Inc., of Columbus, Indiana, sponsored the trip as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Kim Havens, Foundation assistant executive director, toured with the FFA group.

At Claas world headquarters, Paul Woods, chief of marketing, explained that the harvesting equipment company is number one in Europe for combines and big balers, and is expanding in America. The FFA group toured the 47-acre plant, viewing the complete assembly line process from computerized cutting of the raw steel to testing the finished products.

At the Milchwerke Westfalen plant in Herford, the group saw powdered milk and butter processed. The powdered milk dried in four-story high cylinders, while butter was made in a huge churn. For lunch, the Stars had the chance to taste a variety of the company's dairy products.

Sugar beet processing was at its peak in October, as the group toured a factory near Hannover. They saw and tasted the product through several stages—chopped raw and cooked beets, syrup, crystals and pulp and molasses by-products.

The Stars also learned about German agriculture by visiting farms where two Work Experience Abroad students were placed. At the family farm where Phil Thurston of Oklahoma, lived and worked, they saw a 600 hog farrow-to-finish operation and bulls that are fed out to 2,500 pounds for beef. The family also raises barley, corn, wheat and oats on 125 acres for livestock feed. Another WEA'er, Tom Udelhoven of Wisconsin, worked on a family farm of 40 dairy cows, 500 hogs, 200 bull feeder calves and 230 acres of grain.

Visits to the Buckeberg castle, a canal that flows over the Weser River and the historic city of Hamelin rounded out the German tour. •••


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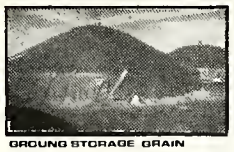
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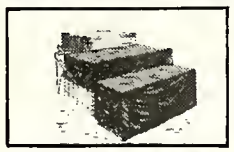
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| 10'x30' | 2 | $ 14.00 |
| 16'x20' | 2 | $ 15.00 |
| 10'x40' | 2 | $ 18.00 |
| 20'x20' | 2 | $ 18.00 |
| 18'x24' | 2 | $ 20.00 |
| 20'x25' | 2 | $ 23.00 |
| 24'x25' | 2 | $ 27.00 |
| 20'x30' | 2 | $ 27.00 |
| 14'x48' | 1 | $ 30.00 |
| 20'x40' | 1 | $ 36.00 |
| 24'x40' | 1 | $ 43.00 |
| 20'x50' | 1 | $ 45.00 |
| 30'x40' | 1 | $ 55.00 |
| 28'x50' | 1 | $ 63.00 |
| 40'x40' | 1 | $ 72.00 |
| 32'x60' | 1 | $ 87.00 |
| 40'x50' | 1 | $ 93.00 |
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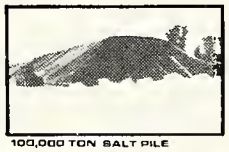
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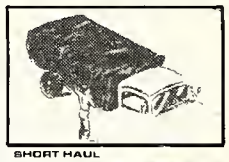
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**"My dad signed me up as an NRA Life Member when I started shooting. The NRA does a lot to promote the shooting sports by sponsoring events and providing coaches. I went to the U.S. Olympic Training Center for NRA Junior Olympic Training programs. There's no way a kid could stay interested or be able to learn about shooting without NRA."**

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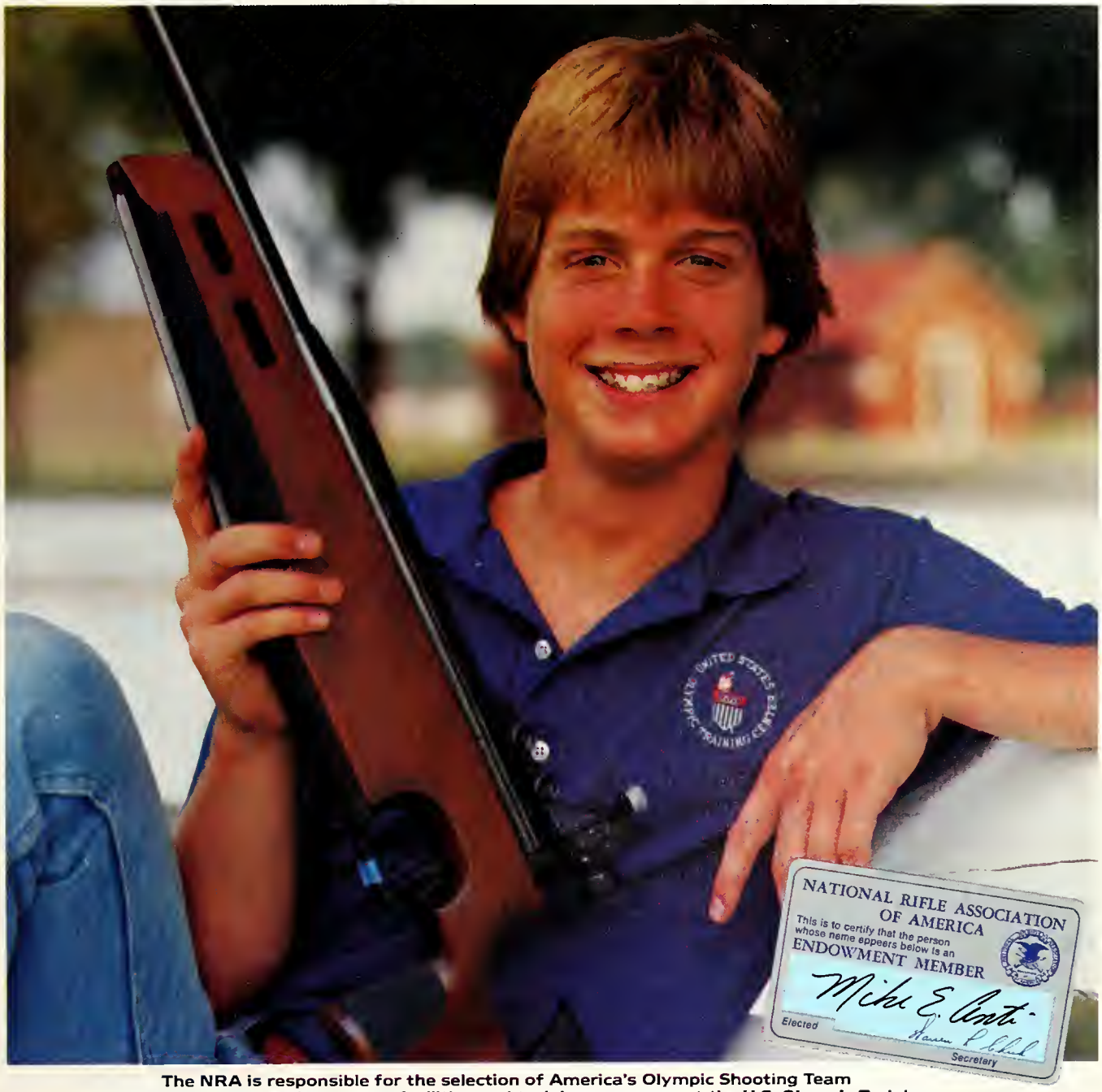


**The NRA is responsible for the selection of America's Olympic Shooting Team and provides team members range facilities and training programs at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. If you would like to join the NRA and want more information about our programs and benefits, write Harlon Carter, Executive Vice President, P.O. Box 37484, Dept. MA-26, Washington, D.C. 20013.**

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# Ag Outlook 1983: A Repeat Performance?

**Top ag analysts from across the country added the data and studied the charts to come up with their predictions for 1983. This year's annual outlook feature story also includes a special "strategy" section which will help you plan for the upcoming year.**

Photos courtesy USDA

LET'S face it—1982 was a bad year for farming. There were bright spots—especially for hog farmers and dairy farmers to a lesser degree. but in general, a continuing surplus of grain combined with sluggish exports made for bad times on the farm. Instead of reflecting back on the progress made in 1982, most farmers grudgingly admit the year was mostly just a continuation of a long downward trend that started two years earlier.

So what of the future? Will 1983 be the year for farm recovery—or prove to be a repeat performance? That's just the question agricultural analysts and economists tried to answer in November, when they met in Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual Ag Outlook Conference. We gathered the help of our own advisor's also and include their strategies for FFA members in this story as well. Here then, is the ag outlook for 1983 for those commodities most commonly produced by our readers.

### Hogs

Some hog expansion is expected in 1983, due to lower numbers of hogs. Even though feed margins improved last year, producers continued to liquidate their herds. Commercial pork production in last year's fourth quarter was estimated down 16 percent from 1981. Hog slaughter by the second-half of 1983 may be 2 to 4 percent above a year earlier. Given the relatively short supply of pork and an improving economy, hog prices may be in the mid-50's next fall. Total commercial pork production for 1983 may be 13.5 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 1982. This would be the third consecutive year of decline after the record-large 1980 output.

*FUTURE FARMER STRATEGY: Look for hog prices to average about $59 per cwt in 1983, compared with $56 in 1982. It's projected that the first and second quarters will see the lowest production levels since 1978, which should stregthen prices during that time to average $58 to $62 per cwt. Although production will go up in the second half of the year, a recovering economy and July tax cut is expected to increase consumer purchasing power and keep prices fairly high.*

### Cattle

The number of cattle on feed in the 13 major feeding states was 7 percent above a year ago on October 1, 1982, and will likely remain above 1982 levels each quarter of 1983. For the year, fed cattle slaughter may rise only 1 to 2 percent, with all of the increase in first-half 1983. Nonfed steer and heifer slaughter is likely to decline another 15 to 20 percent from 1982. Cow slaughter is also expected to decline. As a result, prices of choice fed steers at Omaha may average $67 to $68 in 1983, compared to about $65 in 1982.

*FUTURE FARMER STRATEGY: Watch for prices to rise slowly through spring, and peak by midsummer, with some modest declines expected next fall. If the economy picks up in the second-quarter and unemployment comes down as expected, a pent-up demand to replace durable goods could hold beef prices in the second-half to $65 to $70.*

### Feed Grains

If an area of continued bad news could be zeroed in on it would be feed grains for the coming year. Another record supply butting up against slug-

*(Continued on next page)*

# Ag Outlook

*(Continued from page 21)*

gish demand could result in across-the-board weakness in feed grain prices and a further build-up of stocks. Compared with 1981-82, supplies are up over 42 million metric tons while expected use is up only 10 million. Low prices, rather than underlying demand strength, are responsible for the forecast rise in use.

*FUTURE FARMER STRATEGY: You can expect corn prices to average between $2.15-$2.35 per bushel in 1983, compared with $2.45 per bushel last year. However, you may be able to hedge some of your crop for a higher price in the futures market—so keep your eyes open. The farm price for sorghum is expected to average $2.15-$2.30 this year, and barley likely will go for $2.10-$2.25. Last year's harvest of oats is almost 20 percent larger, and consequently should drive oat prices down to $1.40-$1.55 per bushel compared to $1.90 last year. If you can utilize your feed grains for feed, do it.*

**Soybeans**

Large supplies and low prices dominate the outlook for soybeans in 1983. Although both domestic use and exports—which are expected to be record high—are forecast to rise this year, the increase will fall far short of the change in supplies. As a result, soybean prices could fall to their lowest in years. Prices will specifically be held down as a result of the record 1982 crop: average yields were a record 32.4 bushels per acre, up from 30.1 per acre record in 1981.

*FUTURE FARMER STRATEGY: Based on seasonal markets, soybean prices will probably peak between February and July; so naturally you may want to either sell what's in storage or contract in the futures market for the fall harvest at that time. But don't expect prices to look much better than last year: on the average, prices may go between $5.25-$5.75 in compared to $6.08 in 1981-82. Don't get caught waiting too long for prices to go up—they may not.*

**Cotton**

Last November, the 1982 cotton crop averaged about 24 percent below 1981 levels, but well above expectations. Record yields are offsetting the lower production—last season's average yield was about 605 pounds per harvested acre, 58 pounds above the record set in 1979. This sharp jump is due primarily to crops in the delta, Southeast and a smaller share accounted for by the lower-yielding Southwest.

*FUTURE FARMER STRAETGY: If farm prices remain 60 cents per pound or below through planting time, growers will probably revise their expected deficiency payment rate up to about 18 to 20 cents per pound. One outside factor to consider is the world recession, which severely affects the manmade fiber industry. If world economy gets better, watch for higher prices on the farm.*

> *Don't get caught waiting too long for prices to go up—they may not.*

**Dairy**

Record milk production and a record level of government purchases despite improved commercial disappearance highlight the 1982 dairy industry, and 1983 may present the same picture. Milk production during the second quarter of 1982 increased 1.1 percent from a year earlier; during the third quarter, production was up 2.3 percent.

*FUTURE FARMER STRATEGY: Look for the dairy industry to do a repeat performance in 1983. That means prices will probably reach a seasonal low in June. And although prices will average the same this year, the effective returns per cwt received by farmers for milk in 1983 could average 6 percent or more below 1982, given the 50-cent deduction beginning last December 1, and the second 50-cent deduction beginning in April 1983.*

**Poultry**

Poultry and egg producers can look forward to lower feed costs in 1983, with poultry and egg prices averaging near the levels of this year. Prices are expected to remain weak this year, in spite of reduced supplies of red meats, due to tight consumer budgets. An improvement in the general economy (which significantly lowers unemployment) could sharply strengthen poultry prices, given the expected reduced supplies of red meats.

*FUTURE FARMER STRATEGY: Dut to 30 percent lower exports last year, broiler prices remained the same as a year earlier, and the same situation is expected in 1983. Turkey prices were expected higher in 1983, possibly 62-68 cents per pound. Look for egg prices to strengthen from September through November.*

**Farm Economy**

1982 was a difficult year for farmers and agribusinesses alike. Three successive years of low farm income and recent high interest rates have resulted in financial stress for many farmers. The rising value of the dollar, large global crops and sluggish foreign economic conditions have also contributed. As a result, many farmers have reduced input purchases, capital expenditures or other actions to improve their cash flow situation. Don't look for the situation to dramatically improve in 1983, but a gradual upturn in both the farm economy and the U.S. economy is expected sometime near the middle or later part of this year. •••

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## *Your Career In Agriculture—*

# MANY HATS TO CHOOSE FROM

**FFA members and vo-ag students are preparing for careers in an industry loaded with opportunity. But to make sure the career you choose is right for you, this simple advice: plan ahead.**

*By Michael Wilson*

"THE butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker . . .

—And the ag mechanic, the feed salesman, the farmer, rancher, herdsman, agronomist, horse trainer, dairy scientist . . . the list goes on and on. If you're an FFA member in vocational agriculture, one thing is certain: the industry you're training for is loaded with opportunity and diversity.

Agriculture is this nation's number one employer providing jobs for nearly 22 percent of the American work force—about 23 million jobs, most off-the-farm. And the opportunities happen at all levels—whether you start your career fresh out of high school, junior college, technical school or a four-year university.

But just because there are many hats to choose from doesn't mean you'll hit easy street when you come face to face with the "real world." There's work involved if you want a successful and productive career. But if there's one thing vo-ag students have in common, it's putting off what could be the most important decisions in your life: planning a future in agriculture.

Yes, your current involvement in FFA and vocational agriculture indicates you've already narrowed your career interests somewhat. And that's good. But with so many areas inside the broad field of agriculture and agribusiness, you'll have to go one step further with your decision making.

But why, you say, is planning a career so important? For an answer, just talk to someone who is unhappy with his or her career. There's nothing more frustrating or depressing than forcing yourself to go to work at a job you don't enjoy. And it's a safe bet the reason folks end up in jobs they don't like is because they didn't plan ahead, look at all the options, and work toward a specific career goal.

### Where Do I Begin?

Everyone needs a starting point when it comes time to plan a career, and

Photo by Bill Stagg

FFA members are no exception. "The basic format starts with getting a person to look at himself first," says Thom Rakes, coordinator for the Career Planning and Placement Center at the University of Missouri in Columbia. "Naturally, we might think it's more important to look at 'what's out there' first, but for now, look at yourselves: your values, interests and abilities, and evaluate the types of things you can bring to the job market."

That means it's time to take a personal inventory: What do you enjoy doing? Do you have any hobbies? Can you list the skills you now have, and the skills you would enjoy learning? These questions can provide clues to your future job. By checking skills, values and abilities, students can begin identifying what they'll most likely need throughout their working life, says Mr. Rakes.

FFA and vo-ag can provide you with a natural tool for this "personal inventory," because your experiences can act as a testing ground. For example, suppose your SOE program involves work on a dairy farm. Do you enjoy the skills you've learned from the experience? Or are there other skills you think you might be more interested in learning about? The same is true for FFA experiences, like judging teams or public speaking. If you enjoy speaking, you might find your interests lead you to a career in agricultural public relations, or ag sales, for example.

Whatever your interests, it's important to remember how valuable your SOE program and FFA experiences really are, because future employers look for it. "I think any type of work experience is very important, particularly with the way the market is, because employers can afford to be choosy. They look for people who have a proven track record of being good workers," explains Mr. Rakes.

But even though this narrowing process is important, don't forget: it's a rare individual who sticks with one profession for his or her entire life. So when you start slicing the ag career pie, make sure it's a good-sized piece. For example, you may be interested in being a farm publications editor. But it's a good idea to explore the entire area of ag communications first. That way you'll see the whole spectrum, from newspaper writing to farm broadcasting—and if your interests don't change, you'll still be able to key in on that farm editor career.

*When you start slicing the ag career pie, make sure it's a good-sized piece.*

It's also important to be aware of people or things in your life which may be an influence on you. So many times a young FFA member dreams of becoming a farmer *simply because his father was one also*—and then finds out (too late) that he just doesn't enjoy it. In the end, it's up to you to be satisfied with your profession.

"Most of us work better if we're working towards some type of goal, but it doesn't mean we can't change that goal," says Mr. Rakes. "Prepare yourself as broadly as you can so that you're flexible for whatever job market awaits you, but also have some goal in mind and work toward that at the same time."

After you've taken a look at your personal interests, you should begin exploring: looking into careers or occupations which would best utilize the skills you have or the skills you would enjoy doing. There's a large number of ways to identify those careers, says Mr. Rakes. One is through written information, such as in a career library, at your extension service or a nearby agriculture college. Another method is by talking with people you know—for example, your neighbors and relatives who may be involved in that area of agriculture. Are you interested in sales? Then spend an hour or two with your local feed salesman, or ag chemical salesman. Interested in veterinary work? Next time the vet stops by, ask him how he likes his work. You'll be surprised how easy it is to talk with these folks. Most will be glad to help.

"Once you start finding people who are doing the types of things you think you'd like to do, you can really key into that network of the occupation, both to find more information and to eventually find a job," adds Mr. Rakes.

The FFA provides an excellent source of career information at The National Agricultural Career Show, held each year in Kansas City, Missouri, in conjunction with the National FFA Convention. Last year 166 exhibitors came to the convention to talk to FFA members about different ag careers and ag colleges. The show began 17 years ago with only 12 to 15 exhibitors, but now covers 24,000 square feet of space in Kansas City's H. Roe Bartle Hall. Judging from the enthusiasm, agribusiness people are glad to talk to FFA members about their futures.

**Don't Be Discouraged**

Of course, you may encounter problems and frustrations along the way—but don't be discouraged. One good source for guidance is your ag instructor. He can suggest possibilities, point out what other students in the community have done, contact agencies in town and help you decide where your interests lie.

Another common problem is that students tend to think some jobs require supernatural talents, and that certain careers are just too difficult. But don't sell yourself short. It's a common human fault to underestimate your own ability, and it can be the biggest stumbling block between you and a successful career.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Decisions, Decisions, Decisions . . .

Research conducted by *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine in 1982 revealed the following statistics about FFA members:

—73.6 percent plan to continue education after high school graduation

—of those, 43.1 percent plan to attend a four-year institution; 21.6 percent plan to enter a two-year junior college; and 35.3 percent plan to enroll in a vocational technical school

—almost half of those FFA members who plan to attend a post-secondary school made their decision to do so as a freshman in high school

—Of the entire FFA membership, 96.8 percent said they plan to have a career in either production agriculture or an ag-related field

—of those, 54.1 percent, 21.4 percent plan for a career in ag sales or service, 17.6 percent chose natural resources or forestry, nine percent chose ag processing, another nine percent chose a career as a vo-ag instructor, 5.8 wanted horticulture, and a whopping 37.2 marked "other;" when asked to list those "other" careers, at least 100 different ag career occupations were listed, everywhere from ag mechanic to plant genetist. ●●●

# Careers

*(Continued from page 27)*

You may have done some career research already without even knowing it. Your ag instructor, in his wisdom, probably began your freshman vo-ag program with several 'exploratory' sessions where students spend two or three weeks on different subjects like ag mechanics, crop production, sales and service, horticulture—just to help you decide where your interests lie. You can use that experience as a starting point.

And finally, remember: your interests will probably change often through these early years of life. Darryl Yochem, former FFA member and a 1980 American Farmer degree recipient, is a good example. Mr. Yochem now works as a credit supervisor in the farm credit industry. But that wasn't his first career goal.

"I started out wanting to be a vo-ag teacher, then an extension agent, and finally, in ag finance," says Darryl. "I changed my mind because I began to find out about other areas as I investigated. Then, in college, I was able to see even more of the ag marketing, sales, animal science and ag finance fields.

"From my experience, I think it's important for vo-ag students to realize how many different opportunities there are in ag before making their decision," says Darryl. "I always knew I wanted to be involved in agriculture, but I was also interested in business. Now, I'm enjoying what I'm doing, because I can work with farmers without actually being on the farm."

Whichever career you decide on, make sure it's one you know you'll be pleased with. Yes, it can be a tough search, what with so many areas to choose from. But someday, you'll be glad you made the effort. Happy hunting! •••

## *Areas of Career Opportunities In American Agriculture*

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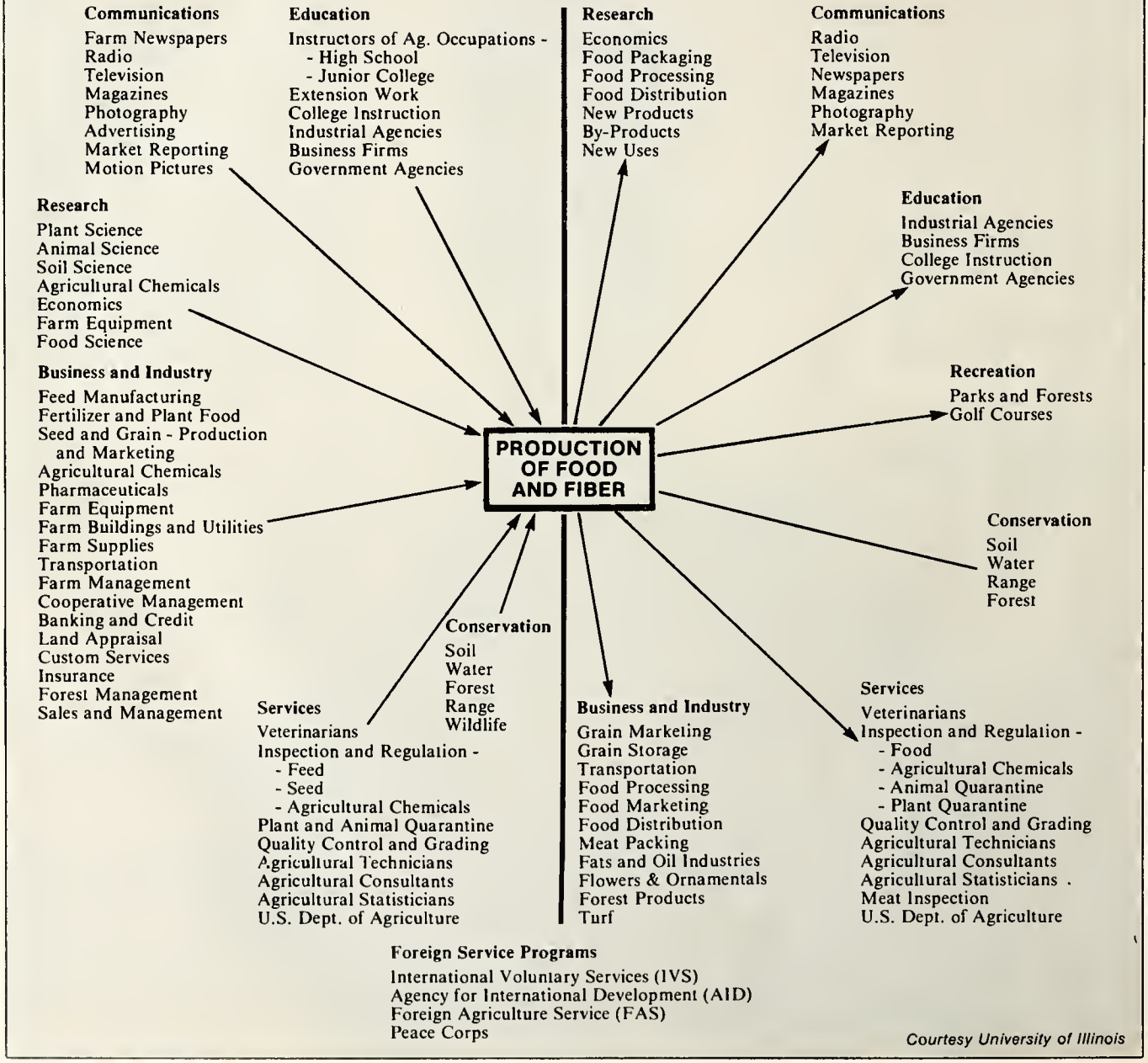


*Courtesy University of Illinois*

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**CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE**

*Graduation and the work world may seem a long way off. But that's no reason to postpone thinking about your future and the kind of career to pursue. With this issue,* The National FUTURE FARMER *magazine begins a series designed to inform you about career opportunities in agriculture. This issue's topic: Agricultural Sales.*

# Ag Sales:
## A Chance To Make A Difference

*By Shirley Jones*

DAN Dawes formed an early opinion about salespeople. They were pushy and inconsiderate and their only purpose was to put something over on their customers.

Strange talk from a person who would become a salesperson after college. Today, Dan says, "I have a totally different outlook."

What caused the turnaround? After all, Dan had always planned to return to the family farm. However, his college friends intrigued him with their job experiences in agricultural sales. After his junior year in college, he landed a summer sales position with Allied Chemical. "Suddenly," says Dan, "I saw it as a good way to learn a business, and that I had other options besides returning to the farm."

The summer job put Dan to work promoting and selling a new product. His experiences convinced him to accept a full-time job as a sales representative for E.I. Dupont De Nemours & Company. Now based in Bellefontaine, Ohio, Dan calls on distributors and dealers of fertilizer and chemical products. "I spend my days on the road and my office is my home," says Dan. "It's close to having my own business. How I spend my time, the paperwork and the budget are up to me. It's a great responsibility."

More young people like Dan are finding agricultural sales to be a promising field. It offers the opportunity to make a difference in a company since sales are the factor that determines profit. While no figures were found that give the exact number of ag salespeople, they number in the tens of thousands. One large employer, the Elanco Products Company, has a total sales force of nearly 400. While numbers of employees vary from company to company, there is no doubt that salespeople are the vital link in getting a company's product to the customer.

Many people have the idea that the only kind of ag salespeople which exist are those who sell directly to farmers, like feed or seed salesman. But there are several levels of salespeople, such as those who sell farm and ranch supplies to dealers, suppliers, or exclusively to large-scale producers.

What does it take to be a good ag salesperson? Rose Jonas of the Monsanto Agricultural Products Company says their recruiters look for people who are goal-oriented and warm towards others.

"We also want people who are motivated and self-disciplined," says Ms. Jonas. Sales needs a person who is willing to work hard. That can be determined, she says, by looking at what the student has accomplished and been involved with in school.

Kevin Drane, a former National FFA Officer and now sales representative for Monsanto, says his FFA membership was a great way to learn some of the skills he now uses on the job. "Communication, for instance," says Kevin, "Is important every single day. Lots of FFA activities polish that skill. You should participate in everything you can, too. The more you learn now, the better you can do a selling job."

Sales also offers an independent lifestyle, says Kevin. "Even though I have a supervisor," says Kevin, "I have to make many decisions." The decisions include who he calls on, what he'll try to accomplish with each customer, and the most efficient allocation of his time.

Kevin received his training on-the-job and through his Agricultural Economics Degree. Those are just two of the many ways a student can prepare for sales, says Dave Downey, Professor of Ag Economics at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana.

"Anything you can do that gives you contact with agribusiness will be a valuable experience," says Downey, who teaches courses in Agri Selling. "Making deliveries, taking soil tests; all these things are good background. They are especially good if you *don't* go on to a two- or four-year college program."

The opportunities for higher-paying jobs with advancement are available mainly to those who seek more education, says Downey.

"You don't absolutely need an agriculture degree, but it is the best option and most employees say they prefer an agricultural economics or agribusiness

*(Continued on page 35)*

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**Top, Dennis, right, surveys a crop with North Linn FFA Advisor Joe Yedlik. Above, Dennis adjusts a nozzle during spraying. Right: checking the controls of the farm's grain drying/handling system.**

# A Tale
# Star F

Progressive young farmer
show why they were se
two leading agricul

*Stories*

FOR Dennis Price,1982 Iowa Star Farmer, farm management is not just a subject he studied in high school. It's his formula for success.

Dennis, 20, lives on a hog and grain farm near Coggon, Iowa. He served his FFA membership at the North Linn FFA Chapter, and, like Danny Moore, was also a state Crop Production Proficiency winner. His method for success is straightforward and simple.

"My definition of farm management is keeping things on the farm as economical as possible," says Dennis. "I'd also say attitude has a lot to do with success. You've got to be into what you're doing wholeheartedly, or its not going to work. If you're not enjoying what you're doing it makes life pretty hard.

"We enjoy what we're doing, so we do more of it," he says. When Dennis says "we," he means the entire Price family, including parents Donald and JoAnn Price, grandfather Merrill Kimm, three sisters and a brother-in-law.

"It's a family deal," he says. "Everybody in the family shows an interest."

Dennis began his vo-ag SOE program with 34 feeder pigs, and expanded when he rented over 200 acres from a neighbor for corn and soybeans. Last year he purchased 120 acres of cropland, and fed out over 250 market hogs. He now combines 24 crossbred sows with purebred boars to produce about 350 market hogs per year, and plans to expand the family crop acreage in the future. The Price family now operates about 1500 acres, both rented and owned. Besides crops and hogs, the family is also involved in dairy.

Dennis handles 360 acres, which last year were planted in corn and soybeans. As a high school FFA member, he also produced oats, part of a Quaker Oats Improvement Program. It was one of several reasons Dennis' 1981 Crop

*(Continued on page (36)*

# of Two Farmers

s Price and Danny Moore
Star State Farmers from
ates in the country.

*el Wilson*

IF one word were needed to describe 1982 Illinois Star Farmer Danny Moore, the best might be "energetic." Just glancing through a list of his vo-ag and FFA activities makes you wish for a breather.

Danny, from Jerseyville, Illinois, graduated from Southwestern High School last year, and is now farming in partnership with his father, Keith Moore. While at Southwestern FFA, he kept records on nine different SOE programs, from production agriculture items to fish, wildlife and forestry. He earned the state soybean production proficiency award as a junior, and like Dennis Price, his fellow Star from Iowa, received the state crop proficiency award as a senior. He's particicipated in leadership camps, been named a top FFA reporter in the state, judged on state-winning teams, has given both prepared and extemporaneous speeches, and served as both chapter president and section officer—at the same time—as a senior last year. And that's just the tip of the corn plant, so to speak.

"Danny is totally self-motivated," says his FFA Advisor Arley Van Doren. "Usually I would dissuade any student from running for both chapter and section (the next higher level of participation in Illinois), but I made an exception in Danny's case, because I know his ability and the drive he demonstrates.

"All the time, we're talking about setting goals, pursuing those goals, pursuing some degree of excellence," Mr. Van Doren continues. "Of all the students I've had, he exemplifies that the most."

Those are strong words from a 21-year veteran ag instructor. But it's a careful assessment of one FFA member well-versed in setting goals and going after them.

*(Continued on page 36)*

**Top, making routine checks for proper seeding is important, says Danny. Above, he checks one of the family grain bins where shelled corn is stored. At left, drilling solid-seeded soybeans.**

# FFA Featured In Television Special

WHO will farm the land?

With the current situation in agriculture—namely low commodity prices and high interest rates—some don't think there's much chance for young people geting started.

And yet, by working hard, working smart and making some sacrifices, many *are* getting started.

That's the theme of this year's National Agriculture Week television special, "Who Will Farm The Land?" produced by Elanco Products Company in cooperation with the Future Farmers of America.

"We want to share with a large audience some of the determination and dedication that is common to the FFA," says Robert M. Book, group vice president of Elanco and 1983 Chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee.

"There have been some stories about auctions and foreclosures in the papers—this will present a more even-handed message on the current situation in agriculture to the American public," says Mr. Book.

A group of FFA members reciting the FFA creed begins the program. This sequence, filmed at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, is then intercut with scenes from a farm auction. The result is a rapid-fire beginning that presents a seeming conflict: with tough times in agriculture, how can anyone get stared?

But visits to three farms, and the feelings conveyed by the young people on them present the belief in farming realized.

Ken Smith of Hartley, Iowa, George Clemmer of Mosheim, Tennessee, and Greg Krush of Kersey, Colorado, are featured in the special as those young farmers who have cracked into it despite the odds. Clemmer and Krush were both honored at the National FFA Convention as Star Farmers in their respective regions.

Perspective on the "big picture" in agriculture is provided by interviews with Al Tubbs, president of the First Central State Bank, DeWitt, Iowa Earl Ainsworth, managing editor of *Farm Journal* and Dr. Hiram Drache, agricultural historian, author and professor at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota.

The show is written and directed by K. Elliott Nowels, and produced by the agricultural public relations firm Sarkett and Associates, of Chicago, Illinois. Nowels is a former national FFA staff member.

More than 100 television stations in 31 states will carry "Who Will Farm The Land?" during National Agriculture Week, March 18-24, 1983. Most stations will air the show on Sunday, March 20 or Monday, March 21. Check your local listings for the time and station.

**Below left: filming on-location for "Who Will Farm The Land?" Ken and Laurie Smith, of Hartley, Iowa. At right, George Clemmer, 1982-83 Southern region Star Farmer, featured in the special also.**

## Improving Consumer Understanding of Agriculture Emphasized

Improving consumer understanding of farming is important to everyone in agriculture. Urbanites need to know more about where their food comes from and the concerns of those who grow it.

The television special "Who Will Farm The Land?" features farming and FFA. Because it has the capacity to reach millions across America with a positive message on farming, it's effect could be tremendous. But only if we get people to turn on the television and watch it.

That's where you come in.

In February, FFA chapters in the areas receiving the broadcast "Who Will Farm The Land?" will get a National Agriculture Week television special kit. This kit will help you and your fellow FFA members promote "Who Will Farm The Land?" in your local community to achieve the highest audience possible for the show.

The kit will include:

- posters for hanging in restaurants, barber shops and banks
- literature explaining the show that you can hand out
- news releases for your local papers.

Watch for it! Improving consumer understanding of agriculture is everyone's business. •••

## Ag Sales

*(Continued from page 30)*

degree for their salespeople," Downey says.

"You also need courses in business management, communication and technical subjects like agronomy or animal science," says Downey. The most important thing is to get a good background and companies do the product training after a student is hired."

Another way to get advance sales training is through an internship. Internships are usually a job with a company or business that lasts a summer or a semester. Many large national companies have sales internships, or you can create your own by going to a local business and telling them you are interested in learning about sales. While many internships offer salaries lower than you might earn elsewhere, the on-the-job experience can help you decide whether you are really interested in selling. It's considered very favorable when pursuing a sales position.

The benefits of ag sales are many, and salaries are an important aspect. They usually depend on industry and ability of the seller. The highest salaries go to graduates of four-year colleges, says Downey, and earnings may range from $18,000 upwards. Many companies also award commissions and bonuses, and in reward for high achievement, a chance to advance into other positions in the company.

At Ciba-Geigy Corporation, advancement can be fairly rapid, says public relations director Skip Ragland. "After several years," he says, "salespeople can apply to be District Sales Manager or Product Managers, Sales Trainers or Technical Sales Personnel who work with universities and farm managers."

As with any job, there are drawbacks. Long hours take their toll. Dan Dawes says it becomes difficult to cope with customers who say no or are uncooperative. "There's also more paperwork than I'd like," says Dan, "But, it's not too bad or I wouldn't be in this job."

Lots of times the things that seem negative at first can turn out to be positive with hard work and luck," says Dan, a former FFA Chapter President.

"I guess my early opinion of salespeople stems from there being good and bad apples in every bunch of salespeople. The bad ones just stick out more than the others," he says.

"It's a good profession." •••

*Shirley Jones is a former FFA State Officer, WCP counselor and National FFA information intern. She currently works as Communications Manager for Agribusiness Associates in Indianapolis, Indiana.*


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## Price

*(Continued from page 32)*

proficiency application received a gold in regional competition.

Dennis fist capitalized on opportunity when he obtained credit from a local bank through the Iowa Family Farm Development Authority. This program allows banks to loan money at a lower interest rate to young and beginning farmers with net worth less than $100,000. It's main purpose is to promote the family farm in Iowa.

Dennis says he plans to farm for a living, a decision he made early in life. As a result his advisor, Joe Yedlik, was able to teach Dennis more of what he'd need for his career in farming.

"Working with students like Dennis makes my job easier," he says. "When they can commit themselves to a goal, you know what to plan on. You can just show them the open door and let them go for it."

Dennis says timeliness plays an important role on the farm, such as knowing when to apply insecticide or fertilizer. The Prices have soil tests performed on their land periodically, and always apply recommended rates of fertilizer. They practice minimum tillage to conserve soil and fuel. "You can't control mother nature, so you've got to learn how to work with it," says Dennis with a grin.

Marketing also plays an important role in the operation's success. "We contract grain quite often so we know where we stand throughout the year," Dennis explains. The hogs are sold on a cash basis, but at least half of the grain is sold on the futures market.

"We try to avoid selling at harvest time because prices are usually depressed," he adds. "We've either got it stored or contracted. I think it's a good tool to help make your financial obligations."

Dennis is in charge of operating the Price family's "Shivvers" grain handling system, a continuous-flow drying setup which sends grain into a dryer-bin then below to either a main storage bin or up through the grain leg to other bins. "It's a gentle way to handle grain," Dennis says. "There's much less damage. This way we keep the grain quality high. The system also saves on drying costs.

"It's another case where its got to be managed right or it won't work," he adds.

Good farm management and opportunism has helped Dennis get a good start in his budding farming career. He now has over $57,000 invested in machinery, buildings, equipment and supplies, plus investments in livestock and crops-on-hand. But as he himself admits, there are no secrets behind his successful start in farming.

"We don't do anything fancy or special," he notes, and pauses before adding: "I probably had opportunities that others haven't had. But everything I had I reinvested in the operation. If there's an opportunity, we try to make the best of it." •••

## Moore

*(Continued from page 33)*

"You've got to be able to set your goals and know what they really are," echoes Danny. "You've got to know what you're working for. If there's an opportunity, I want to capitalize on it. I want to make the most out of every turn."

Ironically, a missed goal early in his FFA career sparked Danny the most. "One of the things that motivated me more than anything was not winning," he says, as he recalls his unsuccessful effort at achieving Chapter Star Greenhand. "After that, contest after contest, I told myself if I didn't win, I knew I had tried my hardest. Besides, I found there's more to FFA than just competition—it's the learning experience that's important.

*MOORE: "I think double-cropping and no-till is the wave of the future, not only here but everywhere."*

"Two years ago, I got fourth out of eight or nine contestants in the section extemporaneous speaking contest," he continues. "I didn't win, and I was disappointed that night. But the next day I realized: 'hey, I got a month of preparation and learning out of it. Sometime in life I might need that.' And you know, it's true"

Danny, 18, now serves as Section 15 FFA vice president. His next major goal, after a shot at the American Farmer Degree and Star Farmer of America, is a successful start in production agriculture.

The Moore farm consists of 1300 acres of both rented and owned land. Major crops include corn and soybeans double-cropped with wheat.

Danny began his SOE program five years ago with a few feeder hogs, two calves, three and a half acres of corn and 11 acres of soybeans. Now in partnership with his father, he raises 800 hogs, 50 head of cattle and splits the 1300-acre cropping duties.

Although the Moore operation is fairly traditional, progressive thinking has played a major role in its success. Six years ago Danny began experimenting with no-till planting and double-cropping soybeans with wheat. His father began both practices several years ago, and both are now incorporated into the farm. Says Danny: "I think double-cropping and no-till is the wave of the future, not only here but everywhere."

Another part of his success is Danny's willingness to take risks pursuing better, more efficient ways to farm. He's noted first-hand the effects of double-cropped soybeans and wheat versus conventional soybean production. He says his results show a higher yield for conventional soybean planting, but several advantages to double-cropping as well: the added wheat crop, most obviously.

"It also saves time, fuel and labor to no-till plant soybeans on wheat stubble," he says. "In a big operation like this, time becomes critical when you're trying to get the wheat crop harvested.

"Also, with no-tillage replacing conventional tillage, you're saving soil," he adds. Danny's no stranger to soil conservation—it's been the topic of FFA speeches he's given at contests, and a personal concern as well. "It takes so long to replace soil once it's gone," he muses, "and the costs can be devestating."

An experiment Danny conducted compared solid-seeded drilled soybeans to conventional-row soybeans. His results showed solid seeded drilled beans higher in yield per acre, but weed control was a problem.

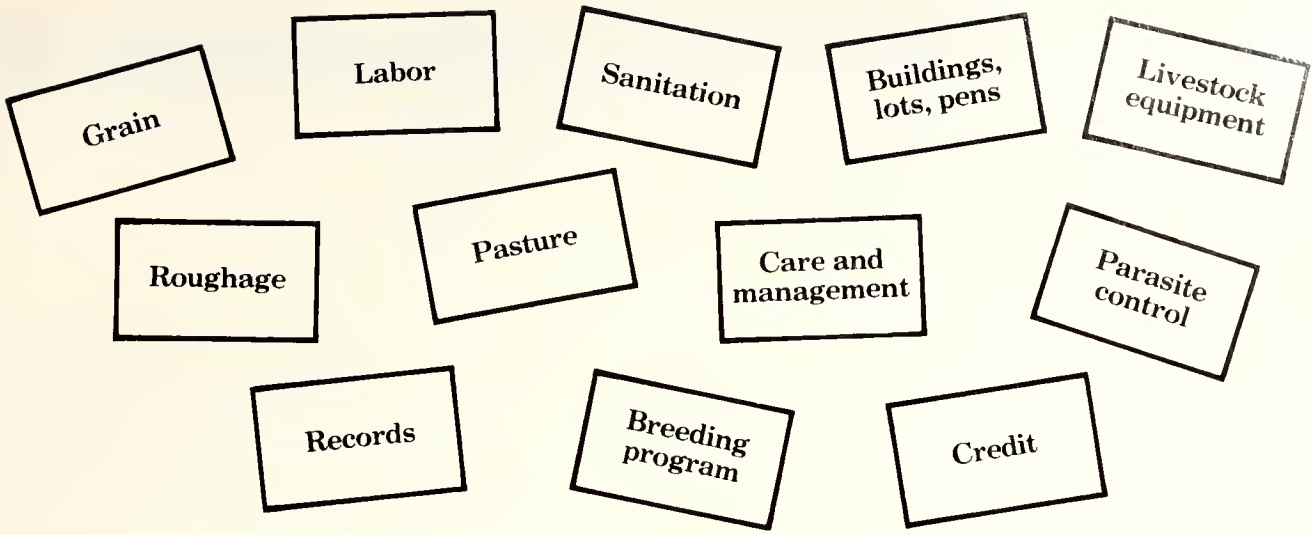
Danny says his biggest challenge as a beginning farmer is obtaining affordable credit. As with most farmers these days, both young and old, he's interested in staying in business.

"I'm confident my management decisions will make it," he says. "I'm concerned—but not worried."

One way he's been able to cut risk is through wise marketing strategy. "Dad taught me a lot about marketing, especially futures and hedging," he notes. Danny checks futures prices routinely, and contracts well ahead of harvest time to insure a decent price for his crop.

"Yields are important, but being able to sell and market your crop can be even more important, especially when you're starting out," he says.

His words exude confidence, but Danny says its all due to his vo-ag training and past experience growing up on the farm. As he did throughout his FFA activities, Danny energetically and enthusiastically strives to become established in farming. Based on his proven track record, his future in the business looks unquestionable. •••

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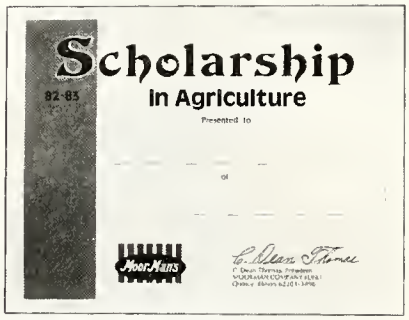


Since 1959, MoorMan's has sponsored scholarships at agricultural colleges. They're being awarded this year to students at 29 Land-Grant universities.

# From FFA To Ag Banking: A N

This FFA Alumni discovered career fulfillment in the ag finance world

*By Dorothy Wilson*

DAVE Binder gets up early to get his chores done. He takes care of his sows, feeder pigs and cattle, then hurries back to the house to shower, shave and change clothes. After a quick breakfast, he hops in his pickup and heads for the bank—not to borrow money, but to loan it.

Farming is only a sideline for Dave. He's been the farm representative and ag loan officer for Farmers Trust & Savings Bank in Spencer, Iowa, since 1979. It's a growing bank that prides itself on friendly, professional service, and at least once a week all officers wear the blue blazer that's part of the official bank uniform to work.

It's not the first blue jacket Dave has worn. He was often seen in his FFA jacket throughout four years at Greenville Rossie High School in northwest Iowa, where he served as chapter secretary and was named Chapter Farmer. He later attended Iowa State University and earned a degree in agricultural education.

After a stint in the Navy, it was time for another blue jacket, this time as the vo-ag teacher and FFA advisor at his former high school, now consolidated into Clay Central Community Schools. He was just completing his fourth year there when the ag banking opportunity came along.

"When I interviewed for the job, I said, 'I don't know anything about banking,' " Dave recalls. "They said, 'We can teach you what you need to know about banking. We want your agricultural background.' "

It was a challenge he couldn't pass up, so his FFA chapter wished him well with a gold watch and the title of Honorary Chapter Farmer, and sent him off to the bank the next fall to "learn by doing."

After some intense on-the-job training and banking seminars, it was full speed ahead for Dave's ag banking career. He started as an ag loan officer and is now farm representative, co-trust officer (working with trusts that involve farmland) and assistant vice president. But his main responsibility is still working with farm customers, both in the bank and on the farm.

Farm visits are an important part of Dave's job. They give him the chance to view farmers' operations first hand. He tries to visit all his customers—both those who are having problems and those with smooth-running operations. After each farm call, he prepares a write-up of what he saw and did and puts it in the customer's credit file for future reference.

"I make about six farm visits a month," Dave says. "I'd like to be able to do ten a month, which would get me to all my farm customers once a year."

When he's in the bank, there's a steady flow of customers in and out of his office. "A typical day is taking care of loan requests and loan payments, and discussing new ideas a farmer might want to run by me, especially if I'm going to loan him money," Dave says. He can loan a farmer up to $50,000 without further approval; if a farmer needs more than that, Dave discusses his request with the loan review committee.

The hardest part of Dave's job is when he has to turn a farmer down. "It was quite difficult the first time to say 'no' and it's still kind of hard," he admits, "but it gets easier."

Bankers are expected to be active in their community, and Dave is no exception. He's a member of the cattlemen and pork producer associations, active in Kiwanis and on the ag committee of the Spencer Chamber of Commerce. And along with the other ag bankers in the county, he takes his turn clerking the livestock sales at the fair.

No matter what he's doing, Dave enjoys people—a trait he considers essential for ag bankers. He believes FFA'ers considering a career in ag banking "have to enjoy talking to people and be able to listen, and be ready to give some advice and be ready to say 'no,' if they're going to be making loans. But mostly they have to be able to get along with people."

Roger Bruene, placement officer for

**Below: visiting customers like Mike O'Hearn on their farms gives Dave, right, a chance to discuss farming trends and future plans.** *Photos by Author*

# tural Step

**Above, Dave Binder spends much of his time meeting with farmers like Sherman Nielsen, another FFA alumni.**

the College of Agriculture at Iowa State University, agrees. He adds that other important skills are the ability to communicate, be analytical and make decisions.

For the individual who has these qualities, Bruene sees a lot of opportunities in ag banking. "As the farmer becomes very sophisticated, financial decisions become very heavy," he explains. "A bank needs an individual who really understands ag technology and the decisions that need to be made."

Many college majors are compatible with an ag lending career, such as ag business, animal science or ag education. Banks would also like prospective ag bankers to have some knowledge of accounting and other business areas, but Bruene has found that "some of the banks really prefer strong strengths in a technical area—like dairy science, if the bank is in a dairy area. They want the individual to know the kinds of questions to ask a farmer."

Students can start to develop these strong skills in FFA and join a bank immediately after college, or like Dave, they can work in another ag career and strengthen their skills even more before entering banking.

Starting salaries depend on education, experience and geographic area—Iowa State students entering ag banking with a bachelor's degree in 1981 averaged $14,000 to $16,000 a year. Added to this are the benefits the bank provides in the way of paid vacation, insurance and profit sharing.

But one of the biggest benefits for ag bankers like Dave Binder is simply being able to combine a love for agriculture and working with people into a challenging career. •••

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# A Potato Farmer's Challenges

**Between flamethrowers, aerial-spray helicopters and water flumes, one thing is obvious about this FFA member's family-operated potato farm: it's not your average run-of-the mill crop . . .**

MORE and more crop farmers these days are beginning to understand a very simple but important fact about their business: you not only have to produce a good crop, but you also must know how to market it as well.

Conroy Soik, of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, understood this concept since he first began FFA as a freshman in high school. Now, the 20-year-old former state star agribusinessman and 1982 sales/service winner has more than just a passing interest in agricultural marketing—he plans to make a career out of it. He's developed a plan to implement a customized marketing scheme for his family's potato farm after graduating from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls.

Conroy and his family raise 700 acres of potatoes, and 300 acres of snap beans and sweet corn on some of Wisconsin's most productive vegetable-producing land, located in Portage County. The county ranks first in Wisconsin in potato production, and in the top five in other vegetables.

But growing potatoes is not quite like growing cotton or soybeans, says Conroy. Everything has to be letter-perfect throughout the growing season for the final crop to be "OK'd" for marketing. And although he knows the potato business inside and out, that's exactly where his goals lie: marketing the product.

"What we do now is put the potatoes in the bags and contact different brokers in the area," says Conroy. "They sell around the states—but they take much of the profit.

"What I want to do is go to college

**Above left, Conroy tends to a maintenance problem on one of the farm's center pivot irrigation systems. Below: a task common to almost all farmers, spring plowing.**

and learn how to establish our own marketing system on our own farm, with our own contacts all over the state."

Normally, area potato farmers sell through a broker—someone in charge of finding a need for the potatoes, a buyer and transportation for the crop to be moved from one place to another. But Conroy wants to cut out that step. "We're trying to get from the farmer to the consumer in the shortest possible route," he explains. He's currently studying ag marketing at college, where he is a sophomore.

Conroy talks in a smooth, almost gentle voice. But he knows exactly what he's doing. He's serious about the farm marketing plan—so much so, that he's already planned for a new farm office, completely separate from the farm warehouse and processing operation. He says he plans to initiate his plan through his own farm first, and eventually expand to other potato farmers in the area.

He got the idea from a nearby farm which did the same thing. He's also had much experience marketing the Soik potato crop before he began college studies. "I just want to add another aspect to the farm," he says. "It should help expand the farm greatly."

Growing potatoes and other vegetables here in Portage County requires a precise and watchful eye for success. For example, potatoes need just the right amount of irrigation, which Conroy says is tedious but necessary.

"We use a lot of irrigation," he explains. "If you stretched it all out it'd be a couple of miles. You wouldn't make much without it." Besides the center pivot system, which covers most of the acreage, the Soik's also use "irrigation guns" which shoot water high and far into the air. With six pumps, the guns must be changed every two hours every two to three days, sometimes for 12 to 14 hour-days. When it's not raining, the potato crop is given between ⅜ to ½inch of irrigation water.

Another area, perhaps even more critical than irrigation, is spraying to fight crop disease. "We spray twice a week every week all summer long," Conroy points out. The foe is double trouble—both early and late potato blight can set in instantly if the spraying isn't accomplished on time. Conroy looks thoughtful for a moment, as he remembers a blight battle from an earlier growing season.

"A problem with a crop-spraying helicopter resulted in no aerial spray for only two and a half weeks," he recalls. "We were finally able to spray, but late blight set in; the damage was done.

"We put those potatoes in storage—when we took them out, you could push your finger right through them" he says. "That's what late potato blight does."

But unlike others, their harvest begins in late July—and doesn't let up until October. They harvest two separate potato crops, one used mostly for potato chips, the other for restaurants and consumer use.

The potatoes are harvested with three Soik harvesters, and hauled with a fleet of 17 trucks. But before they can be harvested, a chemical is applied which kills the plant and makes the skins tougher, so potatoes can be kept in storage longer without spoiling. To speed the process, the Soik's use a flamethrower to kill the plant faster, so that harvest can be handled faster and easier.

Once harvested, the potatoes go either directly to storage in a holding tank at Soik's packaging warehouses, or to the grading line for processing. A special flume system uses water to wash the potatoes from storage to processing—since they're never touched with shovels or other instruments, the water causes a lot less bruising and waste, says Conroy. "It also saves time and labor."

The potatoes are sent to different grading lines where they are washed. Then they enter a roller-assembly line,

*(continued on next page)*

Photo by Jerry Uher

**Below, Conroy makes a plowing adjustment. At right, he demonstrates how potatoes are hand-inspected and sorted in the family's processing warehouse. From there, the crop is washed, bagged or boxed, and sent to food stores, restaurants or potato-chip companies.**

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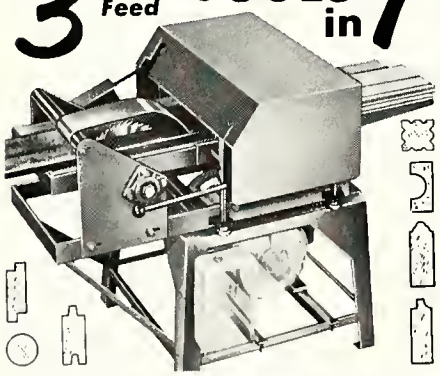

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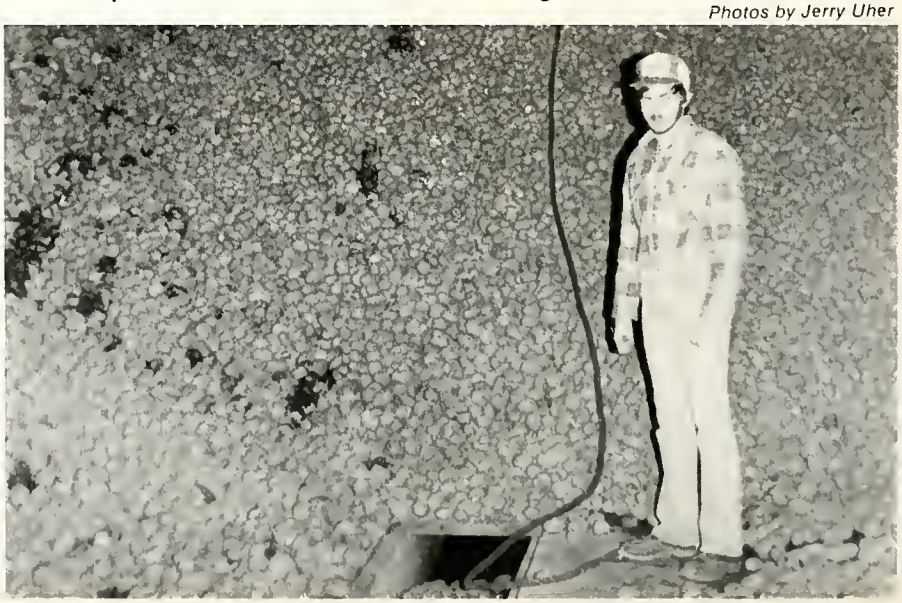
# Potatoes

*(Continued from page 41)*

where odd-shaped spuds are culled, leaving "number one" potatoes. From there, they're sent to a sizing machine which separates large from small. Some are bagged and sent to groceries; most are boxed as specialty potatoes, and sent primarily to restaurants which require specific sizes. Potatoes used for potato chips are transported by bulk on large trucks.

Conroy is currently applying for his American Farmer Degree, and has set his goal toward becoming Star Agribusinessman of America someday. He's also applied for the FFA's International program, and hopes to go to Europe in 1984 on a WEA (Work Experience Abroad) program. But Conroy won't be working on a European farm. Instead, he'll be working with European Young Farmer groups in Brussels, studying the European Common Market. It's just one more area to explore for Conroy—both here and abroad, his interest in agricultural marketing and potato farming may prove fruitful to not only himself, but to others whom he meets along the way. •••



**Above, Conroy shows how one of the final stages of processing happens—in this case, he produces a sack of potatoes ready to be shipped. Below: surrounded by a sea of spuds in one of the warehouse's holding bins.**

*Photos by Jerry Uher*

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# New in Agriculture

Above, AgriData Resources, Inc., publishers of *FarmFutures* magazine, introduces AgriStar, a new electronic business information, communications and computing service for farmers, ranchers and agribusiness people. AgriStar uses the home or office telephone line to connect the microcomputer or terminal to the system data center via a national network. It also allows users to send information between each other via AgriStar's "StarGram" electronic mail service. For more information, write to AgriData Resources, Inc., 205 W. Highland, Milwaukee, WI.

Above, two new tractors for the farm: top, White Farm Equipment introduces its largest four-wheel drive tractor, the 4-270 Field Boss, rated at 270 horsepower with 16 forward speeds and 4 reverse, including 8 field speeds between 2 and 7 mph. Pictured below that is Allis-Chalmers new 5015, a compact diesel tractor rated at 15 PTO horsepower, powered by a 3-cylinder water-cooled engine.

Above, International Harvester introduces IH's new 6788, the most powerful of the company's three 2+2 tractors. It combines the traction and flotation of a four-wheel drive design with the versatility and row-crop capabilities of two-wheel drive units.

At left, a new line of flail-type spreaders from Sperry New Holland is available in either right or left-hand unloading, with tank capacities at 745, 847 and 1,060 gallons for the three new units. The largest unit features 1,000 rpm PTO and tandem wheels. All units are designed for minimal spillage.

The new GMC Jimmy, above, and S-15 four-wheel drive models for 1983 are equipped with a new independent front suspension with a uniquely designed part-time front axle drive.

# After High School Vo-Ag — Then What?

## *NPASO May Be The Answer*

*By Jack Pitzer*

BILL was in vo-ag in high school involved in FFA to the max, state president and even a candidate for national office. Since he had a chance to farm, he decided he wanted some farm management courses but not a four year degree from the land grant university.

To get the courses he wanted, after high school graduation, Bill enrolled in an area postsecondary school. Before long he got involved and joined the National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization on the campus.

NPASO, as it is known, is just for students like Bill. National NPASO president Teri von Seydewitz was in FFA in New York. In fact, she was a member of the famous John Bowne agricultural high school in New York City. "We have so many of the same concepts in NPASO as in FFA," she says. "Our organization wants to encourage leadership, practical experience, the whole idea of encouraging youth in agriculture.

"NPASO is very new. People are just now learning about our organization and what we have to offer. We're growing. Just to think, it was nothing a few years ago and now we have over 7,000 people involved, plus a new awards program."

Officially, NPASO is a student organization associated with agriculture/agribusiness and natural resources education in public postsecondary institutions offering associate degrees or vocational diplomas or certificates. There are local chapters where those programs exist and state associations wherever enough chapters exist in a state. NPASO was officially founded in March, 1980.

Members join on the local level and are eligible to participate in the large national conference held in the spring each year. That conference includes training seminars, tours of agribusiness firms, recognition of members, election of national officers and the national contests of the organization.

The public speaking contest, like FFA, is very popular as is the employment interview contest. Members also compete in personal project area competitions called PAL/PEER for beef, corn, dairy and swine productions.

NAPSO is governed by six national officers and a board of postsecondary educators. Mr. Byron Rawls, national FFA advisor, also serves as National Advisor and Chairman of the Board for NPASO. The Board for NPASO also includes two representatives of the agribusiness community.

The national student officers are elected at the annual national meeting. Current officers besides Teri, who attends Cobleskill Ag & Technical College in New York, are Lisa Cordes, of Kirkwood Community College in Iowa, secretary, and four vice presidents elected at large from the nation. (Although only one officer can be elected from one state.) The 1982-83 vice presidents are Richard Campbell, of Three Rivers Community College in Missouri; Joe Maher, of Illinois Central College; Joye Roberts, of Spokane Community College in Washington; and Stanley Welch, who attends Jones County Junior College in Mississippi.

The Executive Director of NPASO is Kenneth Olcott, an instructor at Cobleskill. He reflects on the growth of the new organization: "We went through growing pains since 1973 when it was just an idea. Now the organization gives young people on the postsecondary level the same experiences and opportunities as FFA does on the high school or secondary level." •••


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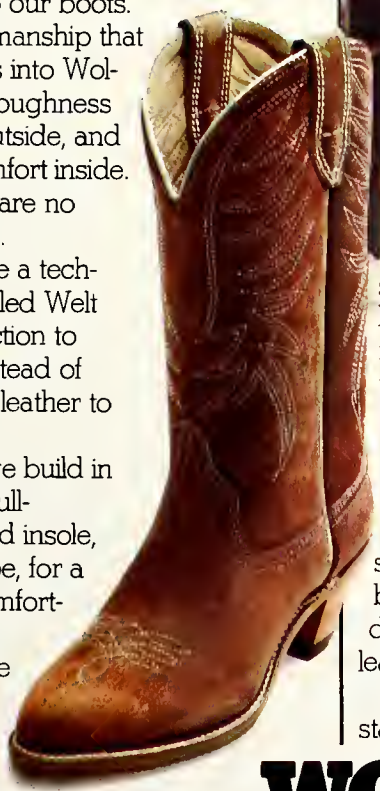

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# Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

The Lions Club in *Nazareth,* TX, co-sponsored a pheasant hunt with FFA for 60 hunters. Fee included two meals and permission to hunt on the land of members. FFA will use proceeds for show supplies.

N-N-N

Holiday activities everywhere: *Evergreen,* WA, had a canned food drive; *Willard,* OH, made fruit baskets for hospital shut-ins with some of the citrus chapter was selling; *Valdosta,* GA, member **Greg Flythe** collected the most clothing and food items for their Christmas drive; in one night *Yucaipa,* CA, collected 2,290 pounds of food and gave it to local welfare agency to prepare Thanksgiving baskets; *Oshkosh West,* WI, is selling oranges, grapefruit, red and golden Delicious applies and wreaths and poinsettias; for the past four years, *Alisal,* CA, Chapter has gotten help from local merchants and doctors to sponsor a party for mentally and phsyically handicapped students from ages 3-21; at *Zillah,* WA, they have a Christmas elf project and classes bring in new or used toys, clothes or food. The class that does the best job is given a party.

N-N-N

**Dan, Denise** and **Duane Pfarr** and **Mike Havemeier** are hosting this year's *Le Sueur,* MN, FFA hayride.

N-N-N

*Shelby,* IA, ran a kiddie tractor pull at the community festival.

N-N-N

Two chapters brought gifts from their state for workers in the newsroom at the National FFA Convention. *Denmark,* WI, shared cheese and *Groveland,* FL, brought oranges.

N-N-N

*Lakeland,* MO, Chapter members and the Alumni sold hickory-smoked turkeys and hams to raise money for an FFA Alumni scholarship.

N-N-N

Big city chapter *Lincoln,* NE, sent four delegates to the national convention according to **Dean Folkers,** reporter.

N-N-N

Summer idea from *Earlham,* IA: a contest to see who caught the biggest fish over the summer.

N-N-N

*Saltillo,* MS, FFA invited former members and chapter friends to an organizational meeting to form an Alumni affiliate and 17 became charter members.

The muscle behind the championship tug-of-war team from *Oshkosh West* FFA in WI was **Bob Tigert, Jim Tigert, Dave Zentner, Dave Clark, Brian Potratz** and **Charles Griedle.** The front man was **Jeremy Fournier.**

N-N-N

*Peoria,* AZ, FFA initiated inter-chapter activity by having the annual barbeque with the *Cactus,* AZ, Chapter.

N-N-N

*Geddes,* SD, FFA took in $1,700 in a slave auction to pay for the seniors' trip to Denver for the stock show.

N-N-N

Repayment to *Altus,* AR, FFA for building the new sidewalk around the school was a fish fry.

N-N-N

A work force of *Wilbur-Clatonia,* NE, members cleaned up flower beds and storage areas at an equal-opportunities housing village.

N-N-N

The *Gibsonburg,* OH, Chapter voted to make contributions to the Children's Hospital, to C.R.O.P. and to the state FFA Foundation.

N-N-N

*Las Cruces,* NM, boasts a profit three times that of recent years from their barbeque.

N-N-N

*Winlock,* WA, FFA's cider sale was a success thanks to *Chehalis,* WA, Chapter.

N-N-N

The greenhouse at *Housatonic Valley,* CT, FFA is full of 56 poinsettias and 96 chrysanthemums. All of them were sold during the holidays except 50 mums which will be used at their chapter banquet.

N-N-N

Reporters who have illegible handwriting should at least print their news items if they cannot type them.

N-N-N

*Wirt County* FFA and FHA in WV served 175 chickens at their annual barbeque during the county fair.

N-N-N

Reporter **Juli Marx** sent news about the activities of *Middlesex, County,* NJ. Judging teams.

N-N-N

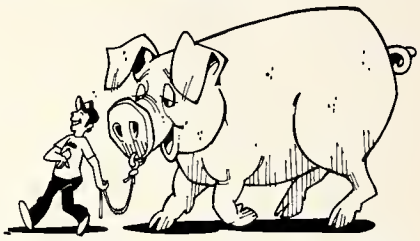
Mr. Culver, *Zillah,* WA, High School principal, gave special certificates of appreciation to FFA members who helped with the fall campus landscaping projects.

*Southeast* FFA at Ravenna, OH, took up the offer in an advertisement in *The National FUTURE FARMER* and is collecting front panels from d-Con packages. (October-November, 1982)

N-N-N

**Bryan Crapo,** vice president of *Wellington,* OH, FFA, rushed 179 yards during the school's football game.

N-N-N



*North Montgomery,* IN, FFA must raise big hogs which could explain their selling one ton of whole hog sausage.

N-N-N

Greenhand Night program for 25 candidates at *Symsonia,* KY, Chapter featured a Creed contest plus an FFA quiz contest. There was also entertainment and refreshments with parents and other chapter members on hand.

N-N-N

At degree night in *Martinville,* IN, each Greenhand was given an FFA road sign for their home—plus enough green paint to decorate their hands.

N-N-N

Guess what? The parents beat the members in a softball game at *Albuquerque Cibola,* NM, Chapter.

N-N-N

North Pole is in all the news lately, but the *North Pole* FFA Chapter in Fairbanks, AK, earned recognition in the BOAC program this year at the national convention.

N-N-N

*Columbia,* MO, members appeared on a local talk show and presented the host with a community service award.

N-N-N

*Big Timer,* MT, FFA organized a game night carnival for younger kids in town.

N-N-N

All the items sold in the *Winter Park,* FL, FFA auction were collected by members. The sale raised $1,500.

N-N-N

Chapter PR is bound to improve because *Mingo,* IA, bought a new 35mm camera.

N-N-N

*Goddard,* NM, FFA served as hosts for World Food Day held in October.

N-N-N

Always anxious for new ideas to share in this column and also to hear from states who aren't listed. About 30 items were received for this issue which were not selected because they were either too general or such localized news that other readers could not use the idea.

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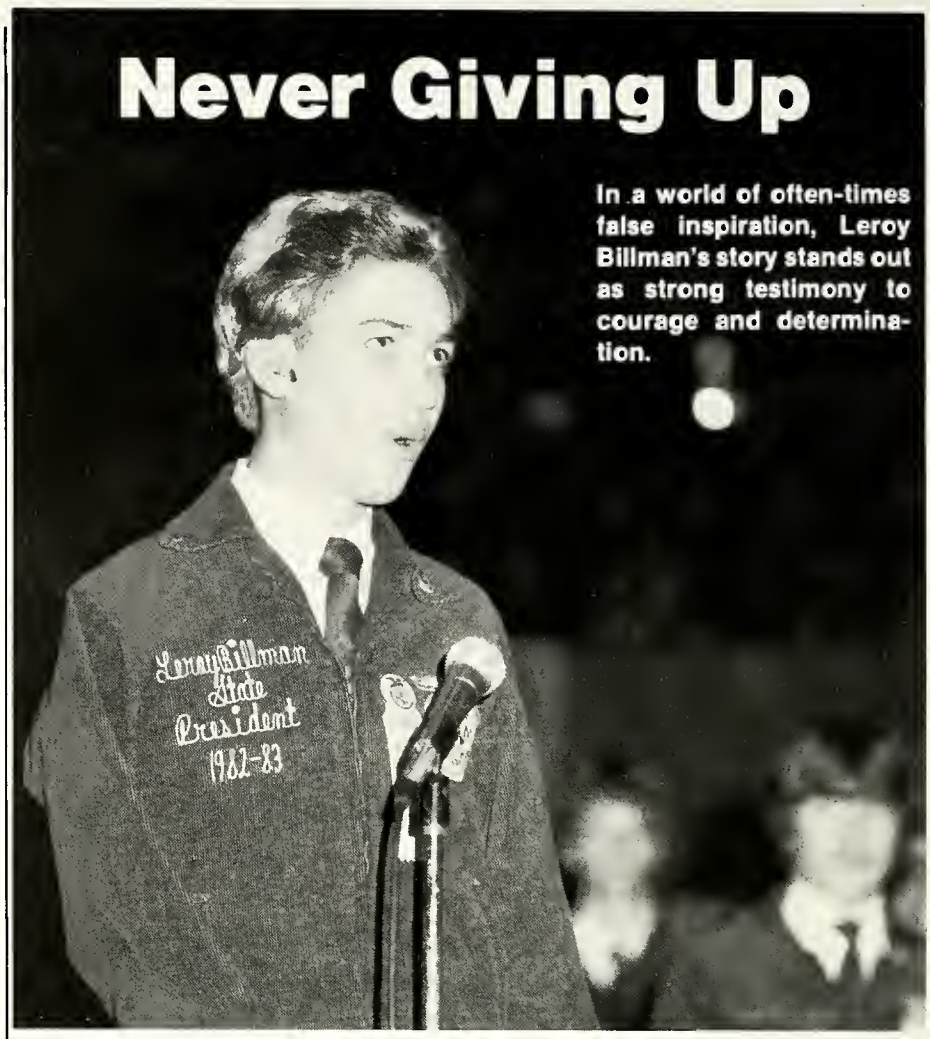
# Never Giving Up

**In a world of often-times false inspiration, Leroy Billman's story stands out as strong testimony to courage and determination.**




**Above, Leroy Billman, Ohio FFA President, seconding a motion on 1982 convention floor.**

*By Michael Wilson*

It was just minutes before the final session of the 1982 National FFA Convention when Leroy Billman and I sat down together for the first time. We met in the FFA newsroom—filled with activity hours earlier, now dim and deserted, save for a lonely typewriter in one shadow-filled corner of the room.

I felt awkward, and didn't know how to begin the interview. Sensing this, Leroy began to speak, in a quiet, firm voice.

"I understand how you might feel," he said. "I can joke about it, though. If I can talk about it, it makes people feel at ease."

It was at this point I began to realize Leroy Billman was no ordinary individual—in fact, quite extraordinary. In a world of often-times false inspiration, his story stands out as strong testimony to courage, determination and strength of character.

On October 17, 1982, just three weeks before the convention, Ohio FFA President Leroy Billman was seriously injured in a farm accident. He was rolling big bales of soybean stubble on his family's farm in Delaware County, Ohio when the baler jammed; Leroy went to unclog it. Part of his right arm got caught as he was dragged into the baler. Later, at a Louisville, Kentucky, hospital, the rest of his arm had to be removed. Fortunately his shoulder was saved.

"The accident happened so fast I didn't even know what happened," he recalls. "I feel so lucky to even be alive. It's amazing, so many things can happen—the power of that tractor and baler . . . could have so easily taken my life that night."

And so it was not surprising that some called it a miracle when, three weeks later, Leroy Billman was not only out of the hospital but serving his delegate responsibilities on the floor of the National FFA Convention.

"I couldn't be happier to be here," Leroy says, in the darkness of the newsroom. "Convention got me here. Convention got me out of the hospital. They say one of the first things I said when I woke up was 'Will I get to go to

the Convention?"

Those first hours after the accident were trying times for Leroy. "I can remember when I woke up in the hospital," he recalls. "I asked the doctor if there was any chance of saving my arm. He said most likely I would lose the arm; and I thanked him for being honest.

"I won't say it was easy to accept. But I tried to keep a positive attitude. Like I said, the accident could have easily taken my life that night. It makes you feel like there's definitely a purpose for living. I kept hope through it all."

Leroy had several things going for him those first days after the accident. His skin grafts responded well during surgery; he was fortunate to have a registered nurse for a mother, plus much encouragement from his family. And, Leroy says, many prayers were answered.

"I feel the Lord was a factor in my being here at the convention," Leroy says.

Leroy, 19, lives with his family on a grain and livestock farm near Ostrander, Ohio. An avid cattle-shower, he raises a registered herd of Angus cattle as part of his FFA program. He produced a bull, "Pine Drive Big Sky," which grew to be one of the most popular bulls in America. Leroy is 30 percent owner of the bull, whom Angus experts estimate is worth $400,000 now as a two-year-old.

For FFA members and leaders who knew him, Leroy's determination to get to the national convention triggered deep feelings of inspiration. And although he managed to hide the pain, it was sometimes difficult; the wounds were not completely healed.

*"I asked the doctor if there was any chance of saving my arm. He said most likely I would lose the arm; and I thanked him for being honest."*

"Sometimes I hurt," he reveals. "You could easily go back to your room and let someone else do it—the delegate responsibilities, the committee work. But the pain just isn't enough to compare with the excitement of the convention.

"I guess I've always been a fighter. I think of it as an athlete: you have to work hard and sweat to win the fight. I knew that was one thing I had to do, and sometimes it hurt. Athletes ache afterwards also, but they know they're getting better. I feel like I'm getting better."

Were there times when he wanted to give up? "It would have been real easy to just say no, I can't do it," he responds. "But I guess I've never been that way. I've always wanted to be a winner."

Indeed, Leroy Billman *is* a winner, in the truest, most personal sense of the word. Now, in February, he's still battling, still smiling, still adjusting—and still providing his leadership to FFA members across Ohio and elsewhere. Not bad for an accident-victim whom many said wouldn't fully recover before April. He has travelled a difficult road, one that most of us would not want to sample. But his courage and optimism in the face of personal misfortune is something all could benefit from.

"I don't look for people to feel sorry for me or pity me for what's happened," he says. "It happened—it's in the past. As each day passes, the door closes behind me, and I look forward to the future.

"They say there will be those days when you're down, and you don't want to continue," he adds. "But those days haven't hit me yet, and I hope they never will. I just remember Winston Churchill's famous speech: 'Never, never, never give up!' Just knowing that people are behind me, I don't think I could ever give up." •••


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Photo Courtesy of The White House

**The 1983-84 National Officers visited during the Christmas holidays with President Ronald Reagan and brought him special greetings from the members.**

## NATIONAL OFFICER *ACTION* UPDATE

When the National Officers are elected each year at National Convention it is just the start of a hard working year for them. One of the first official functions for them is to come to the National FFA Center in mid-December to lay plans for the year's events and go through some briefing sessions with staff, USDA, and U.S. Office of Education officials and take care of other chores so that the year will run smoothly.

This year while they were in the Washington D.C. area, they visited with the President (he especially wanted to meet another Californian who was national FFA president, Jan Eberly) to wish him Holiday Greetings from the members of the organization. The officers composed a warm seasonal poem and had it engraved on a plaque for the presentation.

**Part of the early weeks of a new year term of the National Officers is to pose for various photographs. Here FFA staff Audio-Visual Specialist Bill Stagg "shoots" Bruce Kettler. The others wait their turn in the spotlight.**

## THEIR JACKET WAS FIRST

Each year Fredericktown, Ohio, freshmen FFA members learn about the history of the FFA. They learn of the proud heritage of the Fredericktown Chapter being the home of the FFA jacket. To help make it a living experience for them, they go to visit Mr. Merle Grant at his harness shop on the edge of Fredericktown. Mr. Grant was a member of the FFA at the time the Fredericktown FFA band was invited to perform at the sixth National FFA Convention in 1933 in Kansas City. Mr. J. H. "Gus" Lintner, vo-ag instructor and FFA advisor at that time, felt a jacket would be necessary for the boys for travel during the month of November. With the aid of the Van Wert Uniform Company, Mr. Lintner designed the first FFA jacket, and it was Merle Grant who put on the first jacket.

Mr. Grant re-lived many of those early experiences as he shared with the freshmen FFA members. In addition, he showed the students around his shop, which includes a museum of horse-related items. His collection of horse collars tells a story of their development as does his collection of over 100 horse bits. Every item in the shop has a story and the boys spent considerable time asking questions and learning of the history behind the item or picture.

The boys also enjoyed seeing the leather equipment, including knives, cutters, and sewing machines. He has made specialty items for teams of horses across the country including the Budweiser team in St. Louis.

Mr. Grant is proud of his FFA experiences and each member left his shop feeling proud to be a part of a great tradition that had part of its beginning in Fredericktown. *(Scott Mast, Reporter)*

## PLAYING DEAD

Despite the efforts to promote safe working habits, accidents can and do happen. In an effort to test the preparedness of emergency medical teams at the Washington County Joint Vocational School in Ohio, agricultural mechanics chapter members enacted a simulated major explosion, complete with patients prepared to exhibit all the symptoms and injuries.

A local emergency medical technician provided the realistic makeup exhibiting burns, compound fractures, major lacerations and assorted minor injuries.

The school emergency team had to administer first aid and provide transportation to co-operating local hospitals. The response to the emergency was evaluated by local emergency medical teams and by hospital offi-

**Members acted out the roles of injured people so emergency teams could practice their life saving skills.**

cials. Thanks to the efforts of the chapter, the in-house teams are better prepared to handle any future medical emergency.

## GREENHOUSE GETS ROOTS

After four years a temporary building at the Moundridge, Kansas, High School has become permanent. The high school greenhouse received a much needed permanent foundation recently thanks to FFA. The building has been part of the school system for 11 years, but has been without a foundation causing it to become sway-backed.

**Trowel cement takes a steady hand Moundridge ag students discovered.**

The greenhouse was built in 1971 and located near the rear of the ag shop facing north and south. Then in 1978, when the new ag shop was built, the greenhouse was dismantled. It was again reconstructed west of the ag shop, facing east and west. Since that time the building has not had a foundation. The farm buildings class added the new foundation which included pouring the concrete and troweling it. They also installed new fiberglass and a new storm door at the west end of the building.

The greenhouse is used by the horticulture class to grow varieties of flowers, plants, and vegetables.

So now the greenhouse has "permanent roots" with a much needed face lift. *(Rhonda Gehring, Reporter)*

## ON THE ROAD

The 34 members of the Covington-Douglas, Oklahoma, Chapter took a day-long field trip to Ditch Witch Company, Pioneer Commodities and Oklahoma State University veterinarian teaching clinic.

The first stop was at Ditch Witch, in Perry, Oklahoma, a firm that makes trenching machinery. Many of the members have parents who work there, and wanted to see what they do on their jobs. All of the Ditch Witch machinery is orange and black, which goes along with its Halloween name.

The chapter also went to Pioneer Commodities in Perry and learned about the futures market and how it operates.

During the afternoon the group traveled by bus to Stillwater, Oklahoma. After a break for lunch they toured the Oklahoma State University veterinarian clinic. Last stop on the agenda was a tour of the intramural sports facility on campus. The day of touring was very educational and enjoyed by every member of the chapter. *(Kim Burke, Reporter)*

## CANNED MONEY

With the increasing cost of FFA jackets and convention travel, the Windsor, Illinois, Chapter has adapted their BOAC project to help the individual chapter members raise money.

In the past our chapter has been collecting aluminum cans. This year we have set up a thrift account which will credit the members with approximately a penny per can. This money can only be used for official jackets, state and national conventions and leadership camps. If unused by the members for these purposes, the money goes into the FFA general account.

This project started as a BOAC project with checking the roadsides and picking up all the cans. Some members even make arrangements with groups or parties so they can get the cans

*(Continued on page 54)*


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# FFA in Action

*(Pick up ACTION from page 53)*

before they are trashed. We separate the aluminum cans from the metal cans and dispose the metal ones. We sell the aluminum and depending on the price of aluminum, we give each member approximately a penny for each aluminum can brought in. This year our chapter has already collected over 10,000 aluminum cans.

## THEY WON WITH THEIR PARLIAMENTARY SKILL

The fifth annual national invitational parliamentary procedure contest was held in Carthage, Missouri, on November 9th and 10th, 1982, just prior to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. State teams participating were from: Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia. The contest is hosted by the Carthage FFA Alumni.

The teams took part in parliamentary law demonstrations of up to 10 minutes and then they were judged on their use of parliamentary law. Judging the contest were: Dr. Jerry Crownover, Southwest Missouri State University; Mrs. Grace Carr, Unit National Parliamentarians Association; Mrs. Florence Oetting, Unit National Paliamentarians Association; Mr. Dan Kercher, principal, Lakeland High School; Mr. Eldon Schnakenberg, Crowder College; and Mr. Kent Schescke, advisor, Washington, Missouri.

Taking fourth place was the Ohio team. Third place was won by the Missouri team. Second place went to Nebraska, and first place was the Tennessee team. Bronze awards went to teams from Washington, Mississippi, Indiana, Iowa and South Dakota. Silver teams were West Virginia, Kansas, Louisiana, and Virginia.

A special banquet was held for all the teams. The out-of-state team members were housed in the Carthage FFA members' homes to increase FFA idea exchanging among states and chapters.

## AN INVENTOR AT WORK

The Zillah, Washington, FFA and the Zillah FFA Alumni group hosted their annual family Christmas party. Highlights of the activities planned include bingo, a giant monopoly game (where the members are the markers and the gym floor will have all the famous properties), a giant team checker game (again with the gym as a giant checker board and members are the pieces). The giant games were the idea of FFA president Joe Sherwood. Games for the younger kids are being planned by Donnita Marsh, Katy Hitchcock, and Lisa Schneider. There is also a visit by Santa planned for all.

This party for al FFA members, Alumni members, school staff and their families. There is no charge for this event, however, everyone brings an item for the snack bar. Guests are asked RSVP to the recreation committee.

**PRIDE IN THEIR WORK**

**The Norton, Kansas, FFA Chapter painted the welcome signs as part of their ongoing BOAC project. The FFA cooperation committee has been working closely with the Norton PRIDE Committee. Other projects have included the planting of grass in the park and the repairing and painting of the road-side park playground equipment. From left to right are Daniel Dinges, Sandy Rule, Leesa Mason, Lynn McMullen, Ed Strickland and Mike Luft.**

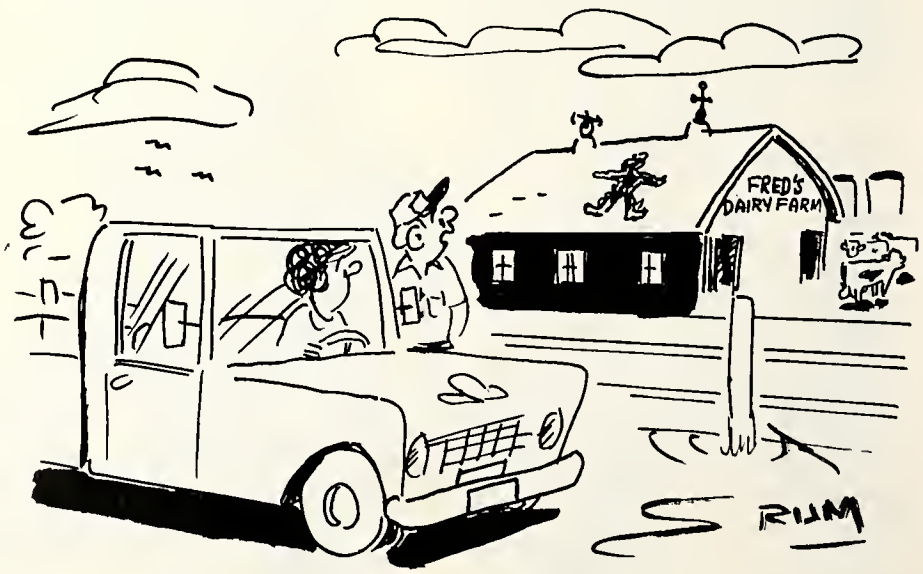
## A THANK YOU MEAL

The Willard, Ohio, FFA had its third harvest luncheon this November to honor people who have donated time, money and/or equipment to the chapter. All of these guests are invited to a big autumn-style lunch.

An activity such as this cannot be accomplished alone so the cooperation committee lined up the local FHA chapter to help prepare the meal. The FHA then invites the people that support their organization to the luncheon also.

The responsibilities are split between the FFA and the FHA. The FFA was responsible for roasting the 220-pound hog, making corsages for the ladies and helping set and clean-up. The

*(Continued on page 57)*




*"Oh, yeah, and pick up a get well card too for the vet."*

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | 34 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| | | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| | | | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | |

## *WARNING ALERT!*

We are rapidly approaching the annual awards season. March and April are extremely heavy in volume.

Please order your awards **at least 30 days in advance** of your banquet to assure yourself of on time delivery!

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# FFA in Action

*(Pick up ACTION from Page 54)*

FHA was responsible for cooking the winter squash, baking pumpkin pies, making rolls and jello salad and setting the tables with plates and silverware.

At the luncheon 55 people attended and enjoyed fine food and fellowship. This is a good example of cooperation and committee work. *(Robert Sallee, Reporter)*

## AN INVITATION TO WIN

The Bellevue, Ohio, FFA hosted its third annual invitational statewide livestock and dairy judging contest in October at the county fairgrounds in Norwalk. A total of 40 teams from across the state participated in the contest.

Bellevue FFA members were in charge of organizing, obtaining livestock, getting trophy donors and all other aspects of operating a judging contest.

The livestock contest consisted of beef heifers, donated by Hoffman Farms, beef steers donated by Pinederosa Farms, breeding ewes and market lambs from Dwight Suffolks, market hogs and breeding gilts from Nick and Iris Hahn. The Jersey dairy cattle came from Don Love of Greenwich, Holsteins from Lundview Farms, Ayrshires from Fair-Ayr Farms, and Guernseys from Tree Pump Farms and Sherma Farms.

Officials for the contest were Mr. Bill Lund, a purebred dairy cattle breeder and dairy cattle judge and former member of a collegiate dairy judging team. The official for the livestock judging contest was Mr. Kevin Hinds, a purebred beef cattle breeder

Winners in the dairy judging were Keystone FFA first; Margaretta FFA second; and South Central third. In the livestock contest; first place was Highland FFA, second place was Tuscarawas County 4-H, and third place to South Central FFA. *(Stephanie Juliano, Reporter)*

*"Picky, picky, picky. The first little mistake I make and you're blowing your top!"*

**Past National President, Scott Neasham, right, joined in the activity of his fellow Iowa Future Farmers. Part of the challenge was to cheer up little children who are sick and unhappy.**

## A HAPPY TIME BREAKFAST PROJECT

Members of the Earlham, Iowa, FFA and their advisor volunteered their efforts in serving breakfast to approximately 25 children at Raymond Blank Methodist Hospital for children in Des Moines during the hospital's first anniversary celebration.

During the breakfast, members entertained the young children and took one of them to visit with Tom and Jerry, local D.J.'s, broadcasting in front of the hospital to help celebrate the hospital's anniversary.

Members also contributed to the "Miracle Mile of Money" which is a charitable fund for the young cancer victims at the hospital. *(Barb Gomez, Reporter)*

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP RETREAT

In November Prairie High School in Washington held a leadership retreat to help students of various clubs and organizations improve their leadership abilities. Organizations represented were the school's student body officers, the senior, junior, sophomore and freshmen class officers, vocal jazz, VICA, FHA and FFA.

The 48 students who attended the retreat went through clinics on various subjects such as: the purpose of leadership, tips on successful speaking, specific training for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and parliamentarian/reporter.

At the end of the meetings Wednesday night students who were "locked up" in the school relaxes by watching movies, playing games, or playing sports in the gym before going to bed.

The next day started with an early breakfast then throughout the day the students went to more clinics and competed in some competitions. There were contests in parliamentary procedure, which the FFA won, and also one on making a program of work.

The retreat ended with an awards banquet. *(Rob Townsen and Marcella Hoodenpyle)*

## MECHANICAL ANTIQUES

The Fairbanks, Ohio, FFA organized an antique tractor day for its members to demonstrate the progress in agriculture mechanics in the past 20 years. Tractors brought to school had to have been manufactured before 1960 and be in running condition. In spite of cold weather nine tractors were brought to school and displayed.

The oldest tractor was a Farmall H brought by Jamie Eubanks, made in 1937. The best "paint job" went to Greg Dellinger who easily won with his 1941 Farmall M. After school the FFA members held a cranking contest to see who could crank start their tractor first. The contest was a three-way tie with John Davisson's Farmall M, Randy Rausch's Minneapolis Moline and Greg Dellinger's Farmall M. They all started on the first crank. *(Kirk Scott, Reporter)*

*(Continued on page 58)*

# FFA in Action

*(Pick up ACTION from page 57)*

## CORNY PLOT

In the spring of 1981, the Page County, Virginia, vo-ag department, FFA and Young Farmers received permission from the school board to use 43 acres of school property as a land laboratory. This land has been owned by the county since 1977 and until the spring of 1982 had received no productive improvement.

A soil test was taken in March of 1982 by FFA members indicating that 100 units of nitrogen, 30 pounds of phosphate and 50 pounds of potassium were needed per acre. A local farm applied the needed fertilizer and the herbicides needed to plant no-till corn.

The seed needed to plant the field was provided by Pioneer HiBred International, Inc. The corn was planted by FFA members with equipment provided by local farmer Glenn Dale Foltz.

Several acres of the field were used for a seed variety test plot of 14 different hybrid varieties of corn. Eight rows of each variety were planted and the yield in bushels per acre determined for each variety after harvest. Average yield for the test plot was 106 bushels per acre.

## THE RACE IS ON

Imagine flying down the beautiful roads of New Hampshire with only air around you. One way to feel that freedom is to make the trip on a 10-speed bike. Mark Rainey, a junior at Dover, New Hampshire, hopes to race 10-speeds someday.

For now Mark is content to race the 10-speed's little brother, BMX dirt bikes. Mark's misfit BMS bike with a Robinson frame cost him $1,000.00 and he puts it to work by competing in races all over New England.

Mark started competing as a freshman. In this time he has won many awards including third in the state for age sixteen experts.

Mark is enrolled in forestry SOEP. For the last two years Mark has been cutting aproximately three cords of wood each weekend working for others. In addition to this he cuts his family's winter fuel supply. *(Joseph Bascom, Reporter)*

## SALES WORK FORCE

The evening began with the numerous supporters being greeted at the door by Sentinel Jimmie Wenzel and other members. A delicious meal was prepared by the FFA mothers and served by the freshman FFA members.

At this time everyone's attention was turned to a beauty contest the Greenhands presented as their initiation into the chapter. All the boys


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looked very stunning in their dresses as they modeled for judges Sheriff Ron Taylor, Jerry Williams, Roy Sparks and Tommy Buzby. The judges selected Quinton Salie as first place winner.

Immediately following this beauty contest the auctioneer began the sale of the 44 FFA members and Advisor Tom Strickland as slaves. The slaves brought an average of $255.00 for a total of $11,475.00.

Each year a plaque is given to the highest bidder. This year there was a tie between Mr. Pete Brand of R & L Rental Tool Co. and Mr. Garland Richards of Hydraulic Chokes, Inc. Plaques were awarded to them each in appreciation for their support. *(Robin Cantrell, Reporter)*

## DANGER IN THEIR BLOODSTREAM

The Fairbanks, Ohio, FFA chapter planned a poison prevention session after they found out that many of their members who worked at local chemical firms were required to take a blood test to determine if there were dangerous levels of chemicals in their bloodstreams.

The safety committee then decided that many farmers in the area may also benefit from such a blood test. Hopefully the results of this test will make farmers realize the importance of proper and careful handling of pesticides.

Farmers can taken their blood test and then listen to speakers from Ohio State discuss the topics of "Stress: It's Effects" and "Careful Handling of Chemicals." Also planned is a demonstration model of a closed-pesticide system.

## VIDEO VOCATIONAL

A new era is overtaking the United States. It's the era of information. This change is being ushered in by the development of low cost micro-computers.

The Smithville, Ohio, vocational agriculture program was fortunate to acquire a Tandy Radio Shack Model III micro-computer this summer. This purchase was made possible through a donation by a community member and the local school board.

On the topic of computers in the vocational agriculture classroom, Dr. Darrell Parks, director of vocational and career education for the state of Ohio states, "With the advent of Atari and Pacman, the application of the computer technology in the teaching of vocational agriculture in Ohio may be as basic as was the teaching of the use of fertilizer or feeding a balanced ration when they came into being."

He continued, "Not only is the computer (particularly the micro-version) a means of keeping and storing information and data, it offers a sophisticated resource to today's agricultural industry for decision-making."

John Upp, vocational agriculture teacher at Smithville, believes the computer will enter any phase of his program. He feels it is important every student learn to operate computers.

Upp stated, "The two problems I see at this point are, first, my learning to operate the computer at a higher level and secondly, many students seem to be content to just push keys and aren't concerned with how to make the computer work, much as people drive cars without understanding how they operate."

**Shawn Bear uses the vo-ag department's computer.**

The vocational agriculture computer isn't the only computer in the local school system. There are two computers in the Green Middle School used for teaching aids in many subject areas and there are three computers in the high school math department. *(Heidi Miller, Reporter)*

## ACTION LINES

- FFA provide the refreshments for the FHA meeting.
- Call someone and sing Happy Birthday to them.
- Offer to care for the plants in the bank lobby.
- Have the FFA pickup painted.
- Take a Greenhand with you to the contest.
- Get to chapter meeting early.
- Challenge the alumni in a Creed recitation contest.
- Be sure your chapter says thank you to the calendar sponsors.
- Do you own a pair of FFA sunglasses?
- Gift idea for your advisor: leather FFA belt buckle.
- Invite the president of the other vocational student chapters in your school.
- Teach someone to clip and block a lamb.
- Teach someone bicycle safety.
- Find a use for the abandoned railroad station.
- Put National FUTURE FARMER magazines at the grain elevator.
- Pick up the trash collection area.


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# The Joke Page

*"Hey, Fred you know that new truck driving school that came to town? Well, I went to the school and paid a $1,000 down payment to join. When they told me the school was for beginners, they were right. You start out with matchbox cars so they don't have insurance bills to pay when we have a wreck."*

Lori Uhl
*Valmeyer, Illinois*

Hank: *"Say, have you heard of the new airline designed especially for hogs?"*
Fred: *"No, what's it going to be called?"*
Hank: *"Ham Am."*

Tom Miene
*Luana, Iowa*

There was a millionaire who owned a lot of oil refineries in Texas. One day one of them started on fire. Since he didn't want that refinery to burn up, he called the Houston fire department. They came over because there was so much heat from the fire they barricaded it just to watch it so it wouldn't spread. The millionaire wasn't satisfied with that so he called the Austin fire department. They came over and tried to put the fire out, but they couldn't, so they built a second barricade behind the first. The millionaire wasn't satisfied with that either, so he called the volunteer fire department from his home town. They came with their best equipment and crashed through the barricades and put out the fire. The millionaire was so pleased that he gave them $50,000. The media was there and they asked the volunteer fire department's chief what he was going to do with the money. He replied, *"First thing I'm going to do is get these darn brakes fixed."*

Jeff Nikolai
*Stratford, Wisconsin*

There was a bad dude who just learned martial arts and he wanted to try them out. So he got a couple of ten-dollar bills and hung them out of his pocket and walked down the street in the bad part of town. He walked for a little while, then a mugger jumped out from behind a building. The bad dude turned around and yelled, *"Karate!"* The mugger yelled, *"Monkey wrench!"*

Ralph Lemongelli
*Monroe City, Missouri*

Sign on a farmer's berry patch: "This is not a strawberry shortcut."

Bobbie Mae Cooley
*Bowen, Illinois*

Quiz kid: *"Say, Whiz, did you know it's now the fashion to dress according to the color of your hair? A man with brown hair should wear a brown suit. A man with gray hair should wear a gray suit. And so on."*
Whiz kid: *"Tell me, Quiz, how should a bald-headed man dress?"*

B.J. O'Brien
*Hermann, Missouri*

A badly bruised knight returned to his castle after a hard battle. He was a mess. His armor was dented, his helmet was askew, his face was bloody, his horse was limping. The lord of the castle saw him coming and went out to meet him, asking *"What hath befallen you, sir knight?"*

Straightening himself as best he could, he replied, *"Oh, sire, I have been laboring dutifully in your service, pillaging all your enemies to the West."*

*"You've been what?"* cried the startled nobleman, *"But I haven't any enemies to the West."*

*"Oh,"* said the knight, and then after a pause, *"Well, you do now."*

Tony Knight
*Laurel, Mississippi*

Henry: *"If having your tonsils removed is a tonsilectomy, and having your appendix removed is an appendectomy, what do you call having a growth taken off your head?"*

Charlie: *"A haircut."*

Daniel Wenger
*Stevens, Pennsylvania*

Once there was a boy named Peter whose father told him to rake leaves. He didn't want to, but he was raking them anyway. A friend saw him and asked, *"Did your father promise you something if you rake those leaves?"*

Peter replied, *"No, but he promised me something if I didn't."*

Toni Dianne Banks
*Pine Grove, Louisiana*

A terrible-tempered golfer named Davis was advised by his psychiatrist to continue to play golf, but without a ball. He was to imagine hitting every shot.

The day after his session with the doctor, Davis met another golfer, and the two decided to play a round. The terrible-tempered Davis warned his new friend of his unusual style of game, but the friend said it was okay.

After 17 holes, each had made 17 straight birdies and the match was tied. *"I'm really going to belt this one,"* said Davis. And he did, hitting a 400-yard drive on the par-five final hole.

*"Well, I'm really going to belt this one, too,"* said the friend. And he also hit a 400-yard drive.

Davis studied his second shot. He'd use an eight iron and the ball would bounce on the green twice, then dive into the hole—which it did for a double eagle. *"Beat that!"* said Davis.

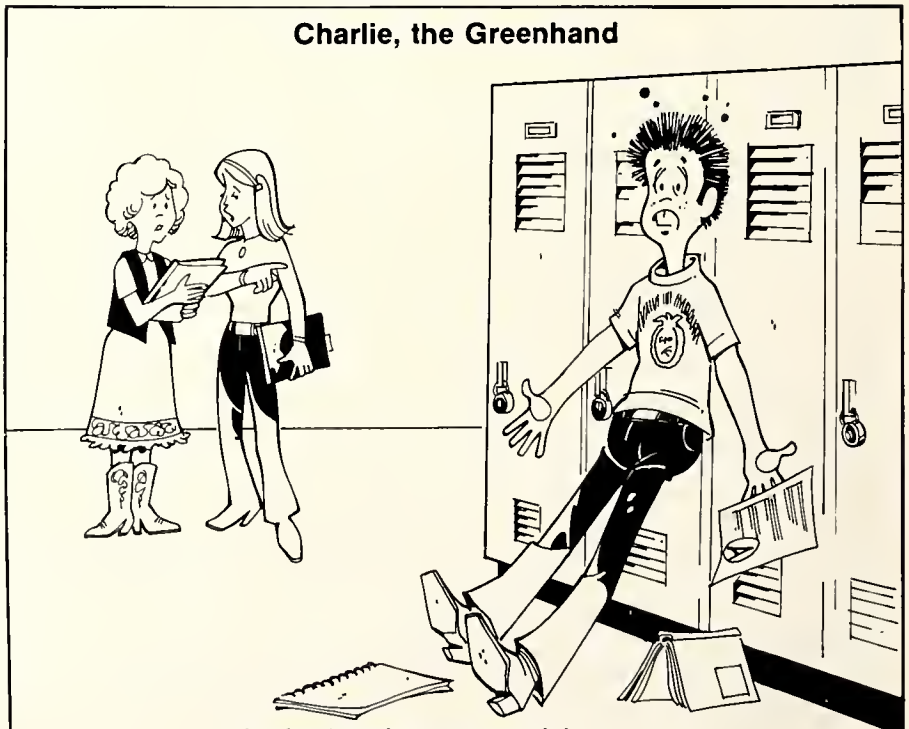
*"I already have,"* replied the friend. *"You hit the wrong ball."*

Joe Bradshaw
*Maud, Texas*

The Scotsman entered a fancy restaurant but all he ordered was a bowl of soup. As he was about to eat his first spoonful, a fly fell into his bowl. He carefully fished the fly out, holding the tiny insect by its wings. The Scotsman then looked at the fly and said, "Okay, spit it all out."

Oren Nunemaker
*Glasco, Kansas*

**Charlie, the Greenhand**



*"No, there's nothing wrong with him . . . just overwhelmed because he got an "A"!"*

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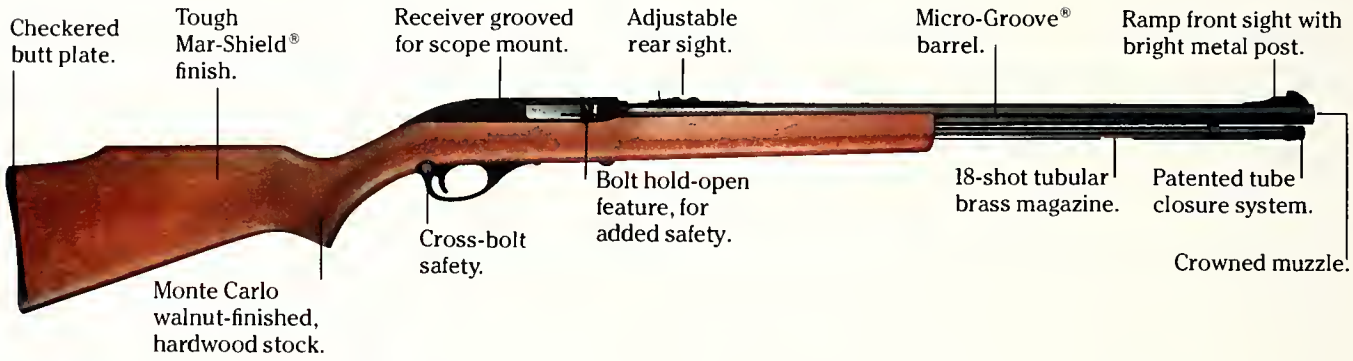


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